



GRAPHIC

HORROR

II

Awake at Midnight



Graphic Horror

Volume 2

<i>"The Door"</i>	Ghost Stories #1	(Dell, 1962)
<i>"Guest of Ghouls"</i>	Beware #7	(Trojan, 1954)
<i>"Walpurgis!"</i>	Witches Tales #18	(Harvey, 1953)
<i>"Blood of the Zombie"</i>	Strange Mysteries #5	(Superior, 1952)
<i>"I Killed Mary"</i>	Weird Mysteries #8	(Key, 1954)
<i>"Step into My Grave!"</i>	Baffling Mysteries #11	(Ace, 1952)
<i>"Witches Feast at Dawn"</i>	Dark Mysteries #9	(Master, 1951)
<i>"Junk Man's Treasure"</i>	Out of the Shadows #14	(Standard, 1954)
<i>"Death by Witchcraft"</i>	Witches Tales #4	(Harvey, 1952)
<i>"Clumsy"</i>	Weird Chills #3	(Key, 1954)
<i>"The Interview"</i>		

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DELL
12c

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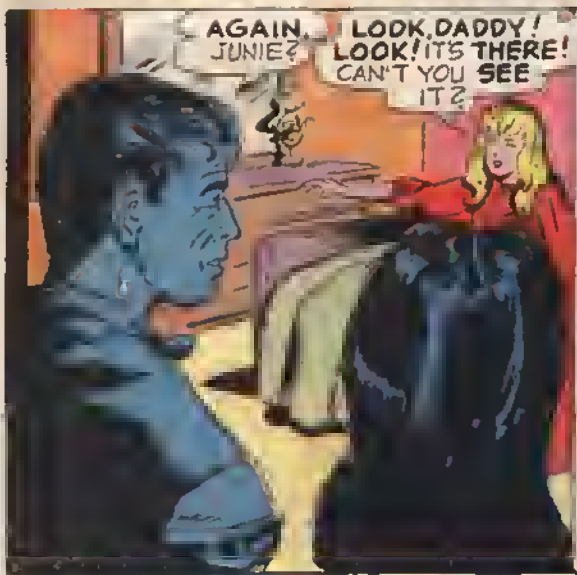
SEPT.—NOV.

GHOST STORIES

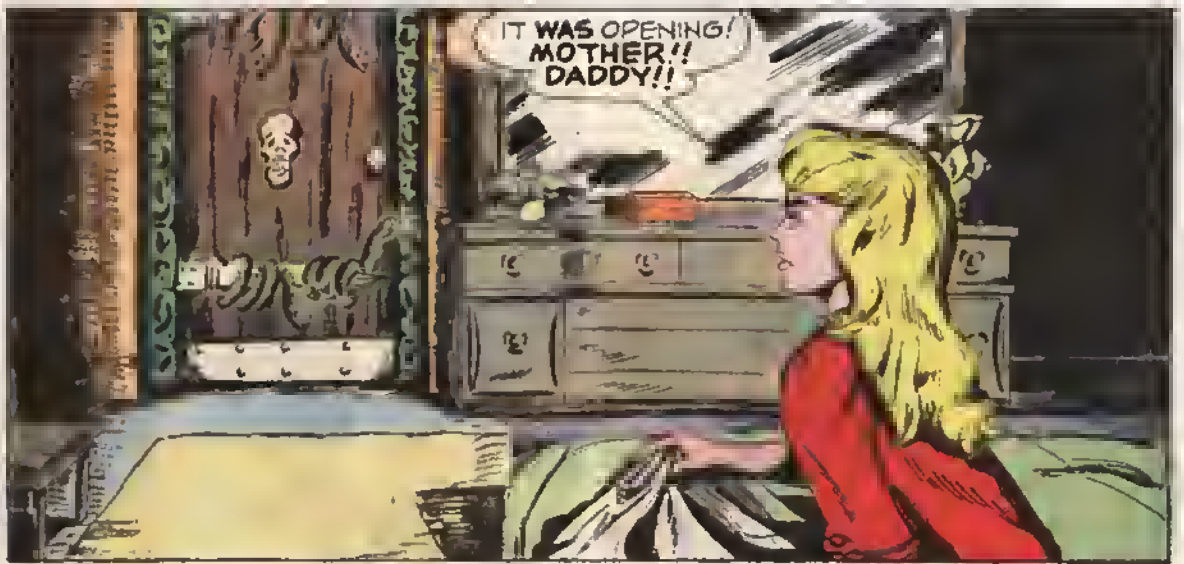
STORIES TO
SHOCK YOU!
GHOSTLY TALES
OF SUSPENSE
AND TERROR!



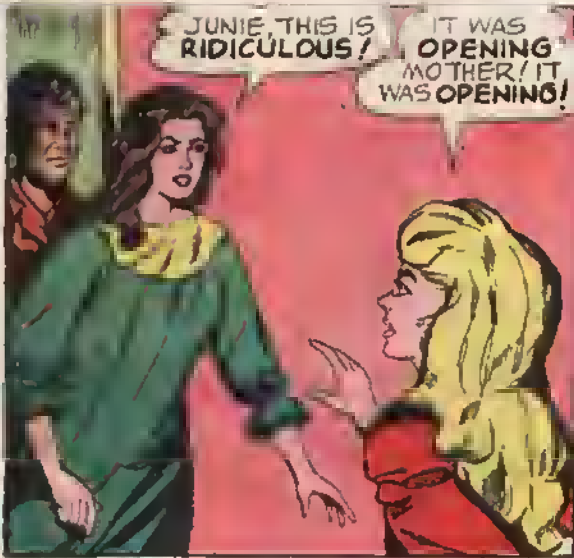
The DOOR...







IT WAS OPENING!
MOTHER!!
DADDY!!



JUNIE THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

IT WAS
OPENING
MOTHER! IT
WAS OPENING!



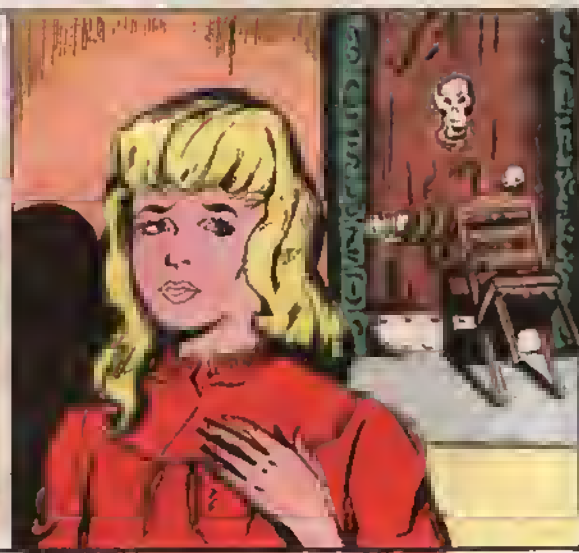
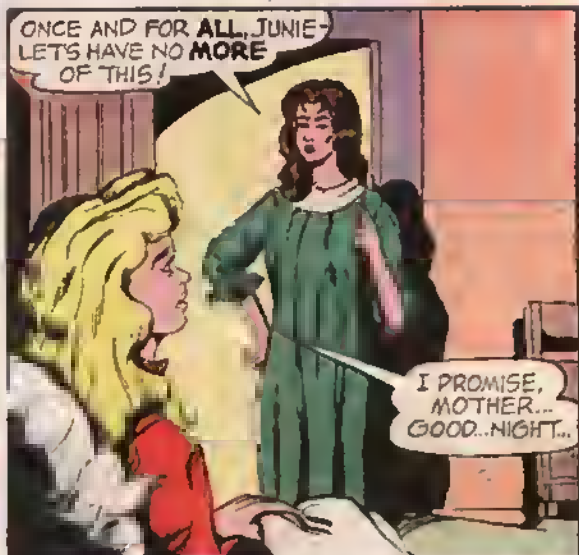
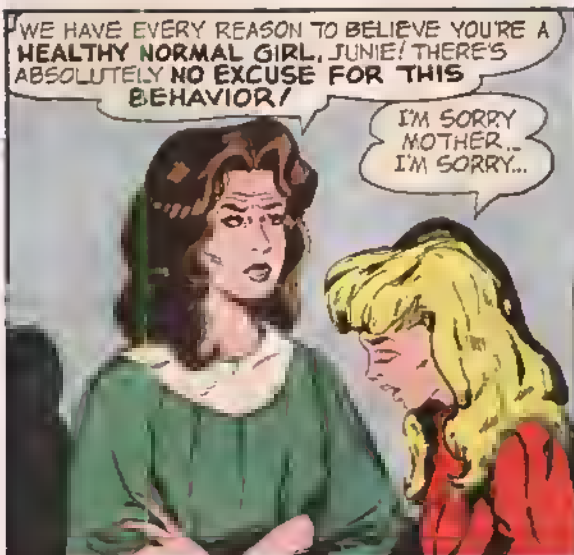
LOOK, JUNIE, LOOK! THERE
POSITIVELY IS NO DOOR
THERE!

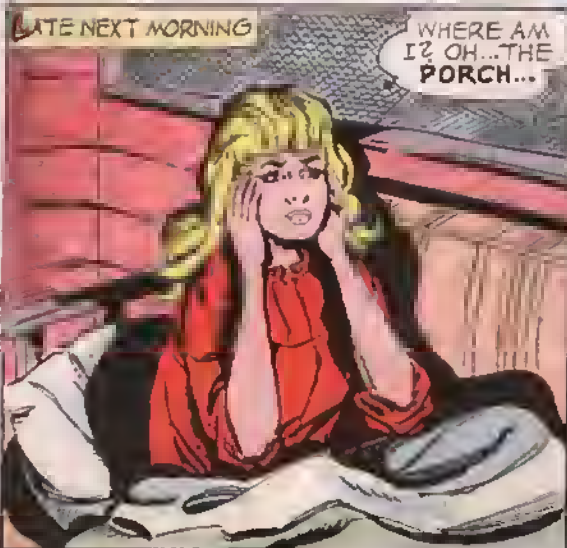
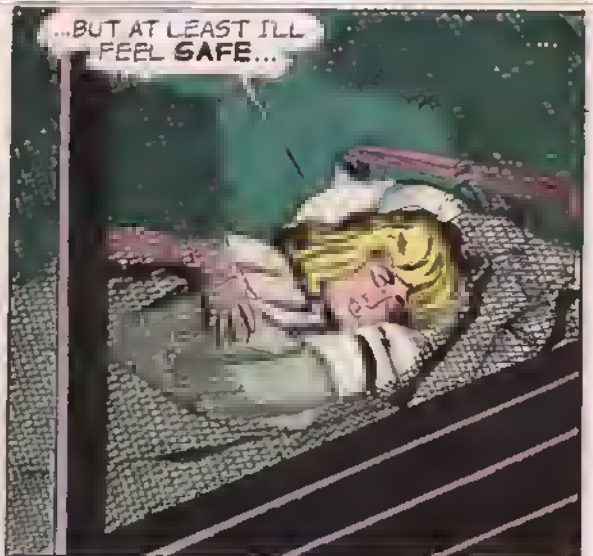
I KNOW, MOTHER...
I KNOW--I DON'T
EVEN HAVE TO
LOOK--I'M SURE
IT'S NOT THERE
NOW---

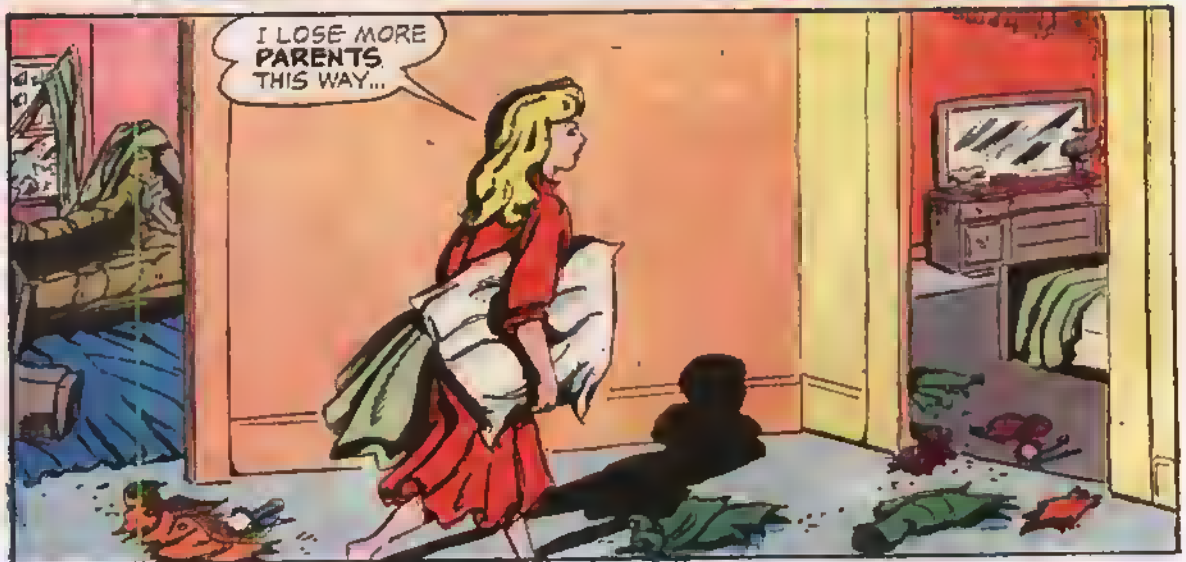


IT WAS NEVER
THERE, JUNIE!
NEVER! NEVER!
NEVER!

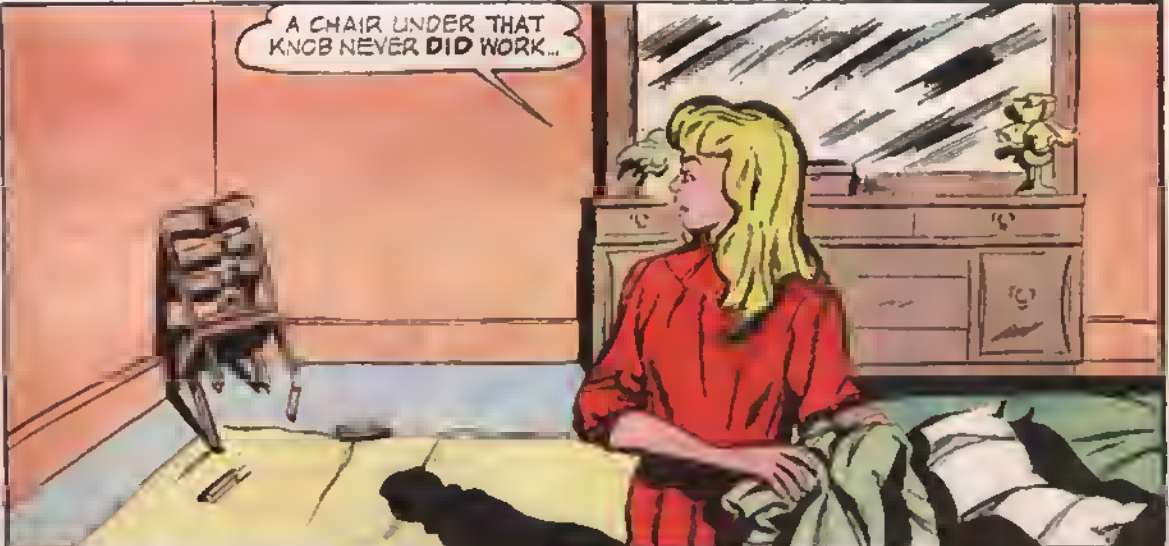
REALLY, JUNIE--DADDY AND
I ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE
MY PATIENCE WITH YOU!







A CHAIR UNDER THAT
KNOB NEVER DID WORK...



I WARNED THEM, THOUGH...
I'VE ALWAYS WARNED THEM...



OH, WELL... BACK TO
THE ORPHANAGE...



...TO BE ADOPTED AGAIN, I
SUPPOSE... BECAUSE I'M
SO PRETTY...



IF I COULD ONLY
GET SOMEONE
TO BELIEVE ME...



THE

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR

BEWARE

BEWARE

10

I WISH YOU'D
STOP READING
THOSE FANTASTIC
HORROR
STORIES!!

THESE
STORIES AREN'T
AS FANTASTIC
AS YOU
THINK!!

HORRIBLE
HORRORS

BEWARE of the
**BLACK
DEATH!**



Javitt Rodman had a macabre hobby... he collected tombstones. But he little suspected that one day, he himself might be collected by that grim, terrifying collector from beyond who haunts the final resting places of mouldering bones as a...

GUEST of the GHOULS

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T BURY ME YET! I'M NOT LIKE YOU VILE CREATURES-- I'M STILL ALIVE!

SUCH A TRIFLING DIFFERENCE HARDLY MERITS NOTICE HERE IN THE GRAVEYARD OF THE DEAD!



SOME PEOPLE ARE CONTENT TO HUNT FOR HUMOROUS EPITAPHS ON TOMBSTONES AND JOT THEM DOWN, BUT JAVITT RODMAN CARRIED THAT GRUESOME PASTIME ONE STEP FURTHER...

NO ONE'S AROUND THIS OLD DESERTED CEMETERY AND THIS CARVED TOMBSTONE IS ONE OF THE MISSING ITEMS FROM MY COLLECTION-- I HAVE NO TOMBSTONE WITH AN INSCRIPTION ABOUT A WIFE-MURDERER!



THERE! IT'S MINE! MAY THE KILLER'S CORPSE REST IN PEACE-- BUT HIS GRAVESTONE RESTS IN MY HOUSE FROM NOW ON!



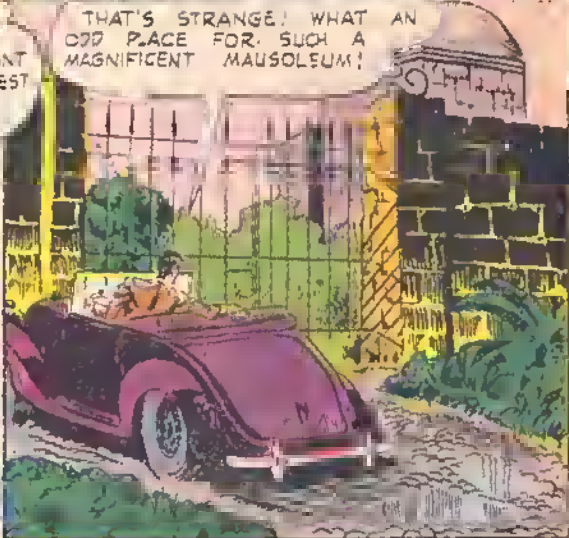
RETURNING TO HIS DINGY HOUSE, JAVITT RODMAN UNLOCKS HIS BACK ROOM AND GAZES AT HIS SINISTER COLLECTION...

UNRIVALED! UNMATCHED!
NO ONE CAN BOAST A ROOMFUL OF
TOMBSTONES LIKE MINE-- AND WHAT PLEASANT
READING FOR A STORMY NIGHT! BUT THE BEST
PART OF MY HOBBY IS THAT THE DEAD
CAN'T PROTEST!



FEW DAYS LATER, AS RODMAN DRIVES DOWN A SEEMINGLY UNUSED BACK ROAD... SUDDENLY...

THAT'S STRANGE! WHAT AN
ODD PLACE FOR SUCH A
MAGNIFICENT MAUSOLEUM!



THERE'S A TOMBSTONE
BY THE SIDE OF THE
MAUSOLEUM, AND IT
LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE
A PRIZE ITEM FOR MY
COLLECTION!

RODMAN...
JAVITT RODMAN...



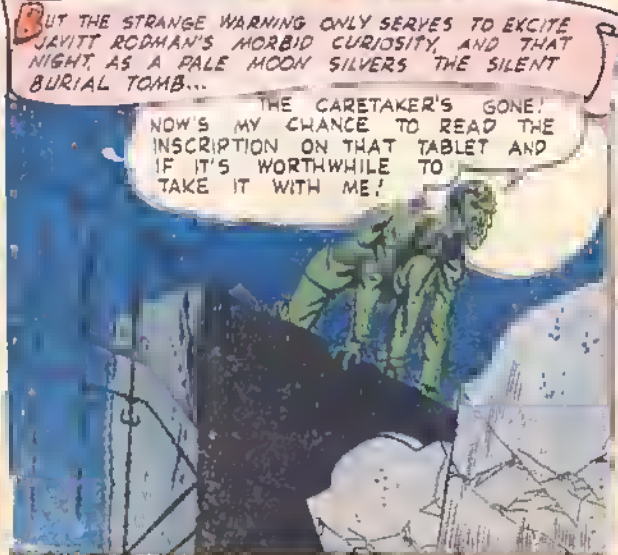
W-HOW DID YOU
KNOW MY NAME?
WHO ARE YOU?

HOW I KNOW YOUR NAME
OR WHAT I AM, MATTERS
NOT! BUT NEED MY
WARNING... NEVER
ENTER HERE!



BUT THE STRANGE WARNING ONLY SERVES TO EXCITE JAVITT RODMAN'S MORBID CURIOSITY, AND THAT NIGHT, AS A PALE MOON SILVERS THE SILENT BURIAL TOMB...

THE CARETAKER'S GONE!
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO READ THE
INSCRIPTION ON THAT TABLET AND
IF IT'S WORTHWHILE TO
TAKE IT WITH ME!

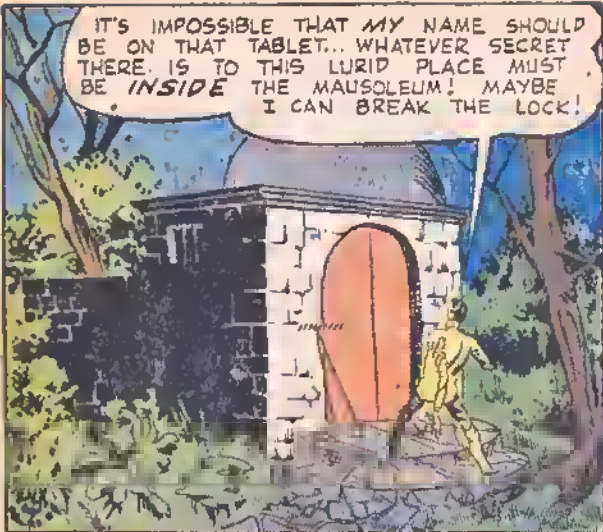


IT'S M-MY NAME!
MY BIRTH DATE! BUT
WHOM DID I
MEET HERE?

JAVITT
RODMAN
BORN
APRIL 2, 1910
WHO MET HERE...



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT MY NAME SHOULD BE ON THAT TABLET... WHATEVER SECRET THERE IS TO THIS LURID PLACE MUST BE **INSIDE** THE MAUSOLEUM! MAYBE I CAN BREAK THE LOCK!



WITH GRIM DETERMINATION, JAVITT RODMAN TWISTS THE METAL RAKE, AND SUDDENLY...

THERE! IT'S BROKEN! NOW TO SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THESE DOORS!



WITH A MENACING SCREECH, THE HEAVY MARBLE DOORS ARE PULLED OPEN, AND A DARK SHADOWY FORM FLUTTERS BY...

A BAT! BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT'S THE ONLY LIVING THING IN THIS SILENT TOMB!



FIVE COFFINS, BUT ONE IS OPEN AND EMPTY!



AND SUDDENLY, BEHIND THE INTRUDER, A GREEN, MOULDERING HAND OF PUTRESCENT FLESH PUSHES BACK A COFFIN COVER...



WELCOME, JAVITT RODMAN! WE HAVE LONG BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

YES, AFTER ALL YOU ARE ONE OF US!



NO! YOU'RE DEAD!
KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
WE HAVE NOTHING IN
COMMON! NOTHING!

BUT WE DO--
WE ARE ALL
VIOLATORS
OF GRAVES!

WE UNBURIED THE DEAD WHILE WE WERE THE
LIVING AND STOLE WHAT WE WANTED! YOU HAVE
ROBBED THE DEAD OF THEIR
ONLY IDENTITY AFTER DEATH--
THEIR TOMBSTONES!

NO!
NO!

AND TONIGHT, YOU
HAVE OPENED THE
DOOR FOR US!
THERE IS A GRAVEYARD
NEAR! COME! THERE
IS GHOUL-
ISH WORK
TO BE DONE!



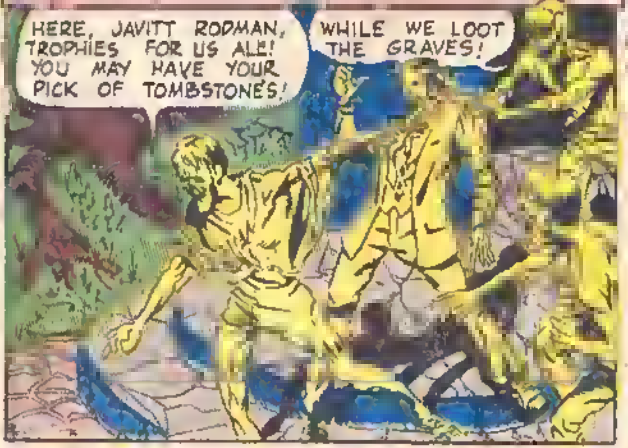
BUT THE CLAMMY, ROTTING HANDS OF THE LIVING DEAD
TIGHTEN AROUND JAVITT RODMAN, AND HE IS FORCED
ALONG TO A DESERTED NEARBY CEMETERY...

AND AS JAVITT RODMAN STARES IN INCREDU-
LOUS HORROR, THE FANTASTIC CREATURES
HE HAS RELEASED, BEGIN THEIR SORDID WORK...

HERE, JAVITT RODMAN,
TROPHIES FOR US ALL!
YOU MAY HAVE YOUR
PICK OF TOMBSTONES!

WHILE WE LOOT
THE GRAVES!

AH! THE LIVING ARE SUCH SENTIMENTAL
FOOLS! THEY ALWAYS BURY THEIR
DEAD WITH RINGS ON--GOLDEN
RINGS!



AND BY ANOTHER UNEARTHED COFFIN, A PAIR OF
SNIPING SCISSORS BEGIN THEIR LOATHFUL TASK...

AND WITH AN EEBIE, CREAKING SOUND, A
THIRD COFFIN IS PRIED OPEN...

HAIR... I ALWAYS GOT A GOOD
PRICE FROM THE WIGMAKERS
FOR THESE STOLEN LOCKS!

COSTLY WINDING SHEETS AL-
WAYS BROUGHT A HIGH SUM AND
THE DEAD ARE NEVER COLD--WE
KNOW! AND SO SHALL YOU!

NO! I'VE
SEEN ENOUGH!
I WON'T STAY
WITH YOU!



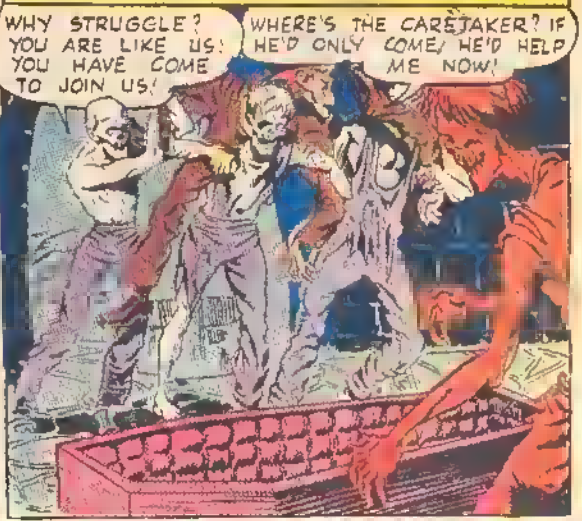
BUT STRUGGLE IS USELESS, AND AS THE MOON SINKS, JAVITT RODMAN IS DRAGGED BACK TO THE MAUSOLEUM...



LET ME GO!
LET ME GO!

COME! BACK TO THE COFFIN WITH US! ONE IS EMPTY--WAITING FOR YOU! EACH NIGHT YOU CAN JOIN OUR GHOULISH RAIDS!

IN WILD DESPERATION, JAVITT RODMAN TRIES TO FREE HIMSELF, BUT HE IS HELD IN A DEATH GRIP...



WHY STRUGGLE? YOU ARE LIKE US! YOU HAVE COME TO JOIN US!

WHERE'S THE CARETAKER? IF HE'D ONLY COME! HE'D HELP ME NOW!



THE "CARETAKER" WOULD HELP HIM! FOOL! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?

HE IS YOUR ENEMY AND OUR ENEMY! WE ALL HAVE VIOLATED HIS KINGDOM!



NO! STOP! I'M NOT DEAD LIKE YOU! I WANT TO LIVE!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM HERE! WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS! JOIN US! THIS COFFIN IS YOURS!



NO! IN THE NAME OF MERCY--STOP!

WE HAVE SHOWN NO MERCY TO THE DEAD! WHY SHOULD WE SHOW IT TO THE LIVING?



AND AS THE TERRIFIED GRAVE-THIEF IS SHOVED DOWN INTO THE COLD STONE COFFIN, THE HEAVY LID IS PRESSED RELENTLESSLY DOWN...

CAN'T PUSH IT OFF... THERE'LL BE NO AIR IN HERE... I'LL SUFFOCATE!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE FIRST RAY OF DAWNING SUNLIGHT STREAKS INTO THE DARK MAL-
SOLEUM AND THE DECAYING CORPSES SINK
INTO THEIR COFFINS LIFELESSLY...



JAVITT RODMAN PUSHES UP THE STONE LID!
SUDDENLY, IT GIVES...



I'M FREE! THEY'RE GONE-- BACK
INTO THEIR COFFINS! THE NIGHTMARE
HAS ENDED!

BUT ONCE OUTSIDE, JAVITT RODMAN SEES
THE SINISTER APPROACH OF THE CARE-
TAKER...



NO ONE WILL
KEEP ME HERE NOW!
I'LL SMASH MY WAY OUT
WITH THIS RAKE! NO
DECREPIT
CARETAKER
CAN STOP
ME!

WAIT, JAVITT
RODMAN! DE-
SPITE MY
WARNING YOU
CAME! NOW
YOU SHALL
STAY!

WITH VICIOUS FORCE, JAVITT RODMAN SLASHES
AGAIN AND AGAIN AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE...



I--I CAN'T HARM HIM...
THE RAKE GOES RIGHT
THROUGH
HIM!

AND SUDDENLY, THE CARETAKER'S HAND MAKES
A SWEEPING MOTION, AS JAVITT RODMAN
SINKS TO THE GROUND...



YOU HAVE VIOLATED MY REALM
TOO MANY TIMES! THIS TOMB-
STONE YOU SHALL NOT STEAL!

AND ON THE GRAVEN TABLET THE
CARETAKER'S BONY HAND WRITES
THE LAST WORD OF THE FINAL EPITAPH...



JAVITT
RODMAN
BORN
APRIL 2, 1910
WHO MET HERE...
DEATH

**WITCHES
TALES**

WE DARE YOU

**TO READ THESE EERIE TALES
OF SUPERNATURAL HORROR!**

No.
18

WITCHES

TALES

MAGAZINE



10c
APRIL

**WEIRD
YARNS OF
UNSEEN
TERRORS**



THE MADDEST OF MEN...THE MOST
LOATHSOME OF BEASTS...THE HORROR
STRUGGLE OF THE AGE...IN THE...
BIRD OF PREY!



UNSPEAKABLY LOATHSOME CREATURES DANCE BENEATH A STARLESS SKY... MEN CROUCH IN TERROR BEFORE THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF DOOM... TO KNOW ALL EVIL AND CHAOS IS TO KNOW...

WALPURGIS!



YAAA-H-H!!
HELP! HELP!

THIS NIGHT
IS OURS...
FOREVER!
IT SHALL
ALWAYS BE
WALPURGIS.
EVE!

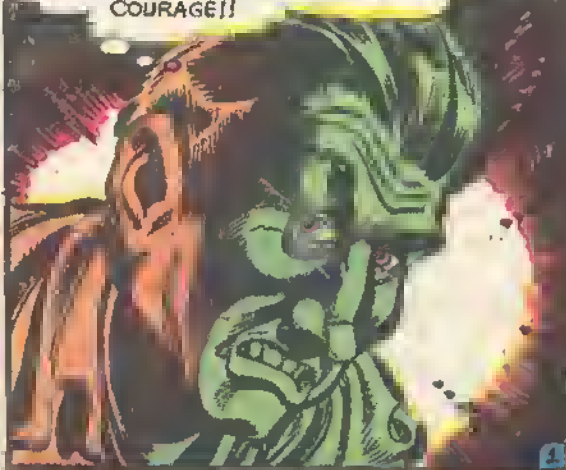
RUN, YOU FOOLS,
RUN! HA HA HA!

THIS IS THE SHOP OF FREDERICK KAFFNER... A MASTER CLOCKMAKER... AND A MAN WHO WOULD MASTER HIS MAKER!

KEEP WORKING,
CARL. I DON'T
PAY YOU TO
REST!

HOW I HATE YOU,
FREDERICK KAFFNER! IF
ONLY I HAD THE COURAGE
TO KILL...

I WISH I COULD JOIN THE FORCES OF EVIL ON
WALPURGIS NIGHT... WHEN ALL THE
CREATURES OF DARKNESS ARE FREE TO
ROOM! THEN I MIGHT FIND THE
COURAGE!!



SUDDENLY THE BLACK VOID IS SPLIT BY A CACKLING VOICE -- AND A *HIDEOUS HAG* APPEARS BEHIND THE STARTLED ASSISTANT!...

WALPURGIS NIGHT
DRAWS NEAR, MY FRIEND! PERHAPS
YOUR WISH SHALL BE GRANTED!
PERHAPS ON THAT FATEFUL EVENING
YOU SHALL MEET... YOUR
DESTINY!



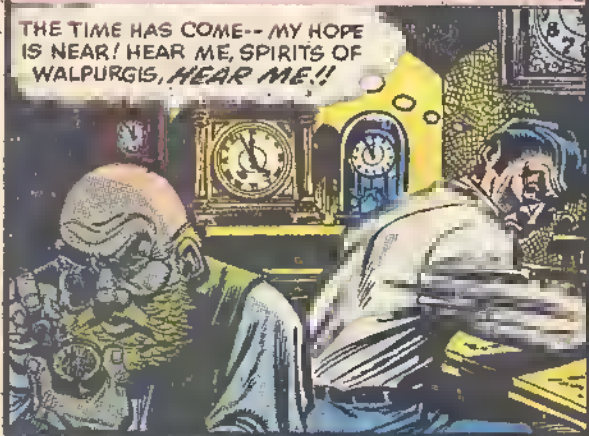
NO ONE! BUT I *DID* HEAR
A VOICE... THERE *WAS*
SOMEONE HERE!

CARL--YOU FOOL!
WHERE ARE YOU?



AS THE DAYS PASS, THE VOICE OF THE DECREPIT HAG
GROWS LOUDER AND LOUDER... AND FINALLY ON
WALPURGIS NIGHT, THE LUST TO KILL HAS CAPTURED
CARL'S TORTURED MIND!...

THE TIME HAS COME-- MY HOPE
IS NEAR! HEAR ME, SPIRITS OF
WALPURGIS, *HEAR ME!!*



A ROAR, A CLAP OF THUNDER, A SUDDEN STREAK
OF LIGHTNING... AND CARL'S WISHES ARE MET!

WE COME, FRIEND
OF DARKNESS!!

WE COME TO JOIN HANDS IN
MURDER!



LIKE *PESTILENT* SPIRITS FROM A ROTTING
CORPSE, THE DEMONS OF WALPURGIS DANCE
MADLY ABOUT CARL, URGING HIM ON TO HIS DEED
OF DEATH!

KILL! KILL!
BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS
DONE, YOU *MUST*
KILL HIM!

YES, YES! I SHALL
OBEY YOU! HE'S
REACHED HIS TIME TO...

KEEP BACK
...NO NO
NO!



DIE!!

AAARGH-H-H!!



THE CLOCKMAKER SINKS TO THE FLOOR--HIS LIFE-BLOOD RAPIDLY EBBS--AND A STRANGE AND FEARFUL OATH FALLS FROM HIS LIPS!...

AS THE CLOCKS IN THIS SHOP STOP TICKING--SO SHALL **ALL CLOCKS**--AND IT WILL BE WALPURGIS NIGHT **FOREVER!** ONLY WHEN **YOU ARE DESTROYED** WILL THE SPELL BE BROKEN--



TO REIGN FOREVER, IS OUR WISH, YOU FOOL! MAY YOUR WORDS COME TRUE! COME, MY FRIENDS, TONIGHT WE ARE THE KINGS OF THE EARTH!

YES! LET US HURRY!



JUBILANT AT THE LONG HOURS OF **DEPRAVITY** BEFORE THEM, THE CREATURES RUSH FROM THE CLOCKMAKER'S SHOP--ONLY TO COME UPON A STARTLING SIGHT!...

ALL THE CLOCKS IN THE CITY HAVE STOPPED! THIS WALPURGIS NIGHT SHALL BE ENDLESS!

WE HAVE BEEN DAMNED! YAAA-H-H-H!!



HA! HA! HA! KAFFNER'S CURSE IS REALLY A BLESSING! WE CAN DANCE THROUGH THE STREETS FOR ALL ETERNITY!!

WE HAVE WON THE EARTH AT LAST!



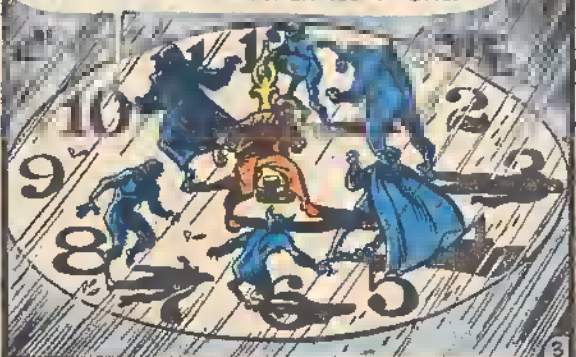
RUN, MORTAL... RUN AND BOLT YOUR DOOR--THERE IS NO PLACE FOR MERE MORTALS IN THE CITY TONIGHT!

YAIIE-E-E!! DON'T COME NEAR ME!!



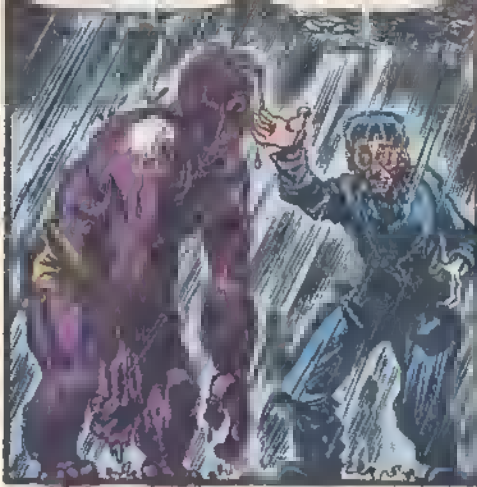
WHILE ALL TIME REMAINS SUSPENDED IN THE RAIN-DRENCHED AIR, THE BLACK DEMONS--LED BY THEIR **NEW** INITIATE IN EVIL--ENGAGE IN A WILD AND MONSTROUS ORGY OF DARKNESS!

THE LIGHT OF DAY SHALL **NEVER** RETURN! WE TRIUMPH IN THE BLACKNESS OF EVIL!



IT IS RAINING HEAVILY!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD
SEEK SHELTER!

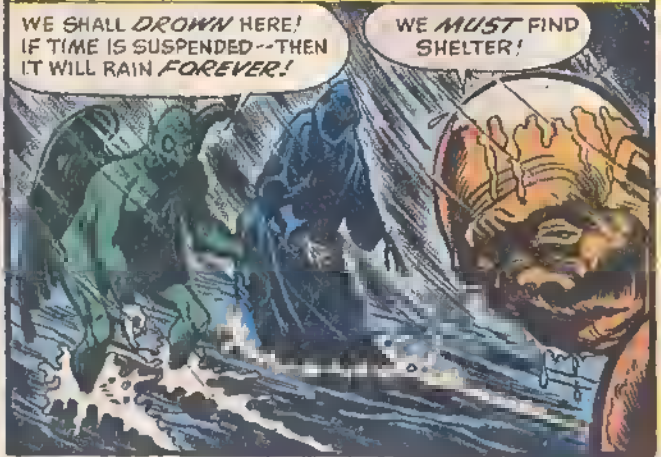
THE RAIN CAN-
NOT HARM US!
DANCE ON!



BUT AS THE RAIN CONTINUES--AS ENDLESS AS THE NIGHT--IT BECOMES NOT MERELY A STORM--BUT A FEARFUL TORRENT--A DELUGE OF THE HEAVENS THAT THREATENS TO TURN THE EARTH INTO A WATERY GRAVE!...

WE SHALL **DROWN** HERE!
IF TIME IS SUSPENDED--THEN
IT WILL RAIN **FOREVER!**

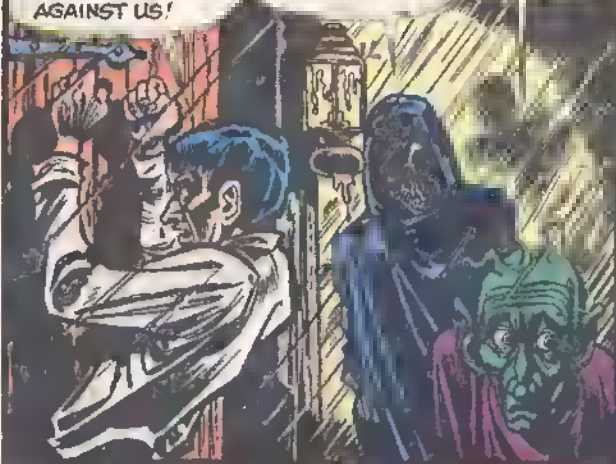
WE **MUST** FIND
SHELTER!



LET US INTO YOUR
HOUSES! YOU CAN'T
BOLT YOUR DOORS
AGAINST US!

THEY FEAR US
--THEY WILL NOT
LET US IN!

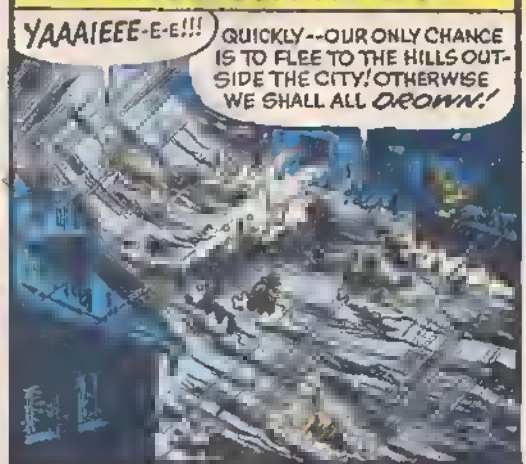
THE WATER!
THE WATER!!



**FIERCELY--RELENTLESSLY--THE RAIN CON-
TINUES TO FALL UPON THE TERRIFIED CREATURES
...AND TIME STANDS STILL AND WAITS...**

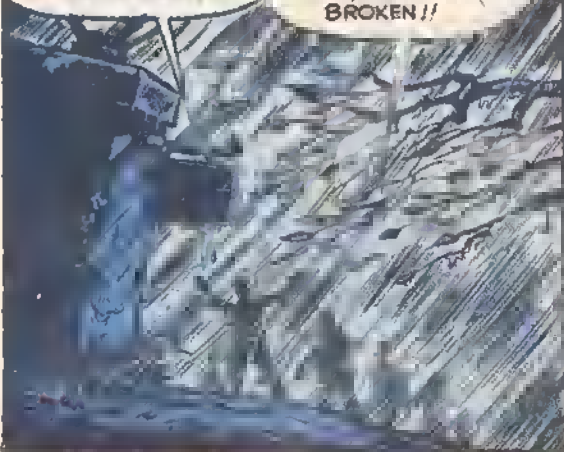
YAAAIEEE-E-E!!!

QUICKLY--OUR ONLY CHANCE
IS TO FLEE TO THE HILLS OUT-
SIDE THE CITY! OTHERWISE
WE SHALL ALL **DROWN!**



WHAT MUST WE DO TO
END THIS ETERNAL
RAIN--THIS VENGEANCE
OF THE HEAVENS???

WE HAVE BEEN TRAPPED
BY THE CURSE OF YOUR
DEAD MASTER! HIS
SPELL MUST BE
BROKEN!!



HE SAID THAT HIS
CURSE SHOULD BE
ENDED ONLY WHEN
YOU ARE DESTROYED!
YES!!

I--I DON'T REMEMBER!
-- HE-- HE **DIDN'T**--!



**GRIMLY THE FIENDS OF THE NIGHT
TURN ON CARL... AND SEE THE
END OF THEIR MISERY!**

**THEN YOU MUST--
DIE!! OUR RACE
CANNOT BE
DESTROYED IN
THE FLOOD!**

**NO! I HAVE
SERVED YOU--
OBEYED YOU!
YOU CAN'T
KILL ME!**



**SEIZE HIM!
HE MUST NOT
GET AWAY!!**

**NO!
NO-O-O-
O-O-O...**



**AS THE BONY FINGERS OF THE CREATURES CRUSH ALL LIFE FROM CARL MORICH, THE RAIN SUDDENLY
STOPS--AND AS TIME BEGINS AGAIN, THE FORCES OF EVIL FADE INTO THE BLACK VOID--TO RETURN
ANOTHER WALPURGIS NIGHT!...**



**WE SHALL COME BACK! EVIL MUST
ALWAYS THRIVE IN THE MINDS OF
MAN!! WE SHALL COME... BACK...**

**THE CLOCKS ARE
MOVING--WE
CAN LIVE AGAIN!!**

**WALPURGIS NIGHT SHALL
SOON BE OVER!!!**



**AND IN THE CLOCKMAKING SHOP OF FREDERICK
KAFFNER, THE MANY CLOCKS BEGIN TO TICK
MERRILY ABOVE THE BODY OF THEIR CREATOR--
TICKING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO ANOTHER
WALPURGIS NIGHT!**



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TERRIFYING! STARTLING! SUSPENSE!

MAY 1952
NO. 5



10¢

STRANGE MYSTERIES



EYES of EVIL
Dead Men Never Die
BURY US NOT
Blood of the Zombie

BLOOD of the ZOMBIE

AN UNEARTHLY TALE OF THE WEIRDEST REQUEST EVER MADE— BY THE MAN WHO WANTED TO BE EMBALMED...



I WISH TO BE EMBALMED, PLEASE! IMMEDIATELY!

Y— YOU WHAT?

IN A SMALL UNDERTAKING ESTABLISHMENT IN NEW YORK...

GOOD AFTERNOON, SIR! CAN I DO SOMETHING?

YES! I HAVE AN URGENT REQUEST TO MAKE!





YOU'RE NUTS, MISTER! GET OUT BEFORE I CALL THE COPS!

DO AS I SAY, PLEASE! QUICKLY! I HAVE NOT MUCH TIME!



YOU HEAR? EMBALM ME AT ONCE OR I WILL KILL YOU!

B-BUT IF I DO, IT WILL K-KILL YOU, MISTER! N-NO! DON'T SHOOT! I'LL DO IT!



OKAY, MISTER! RIGHT D-DOWN HERE TO THE EMBALMING ROOM!

EXCELLENT! AND HURRY! I MUST CATCH A PLANE!



AND SOON...

I'M READY! BUT ARE YOU SURE...

I SAID TO HURRY, YOU FOOL!



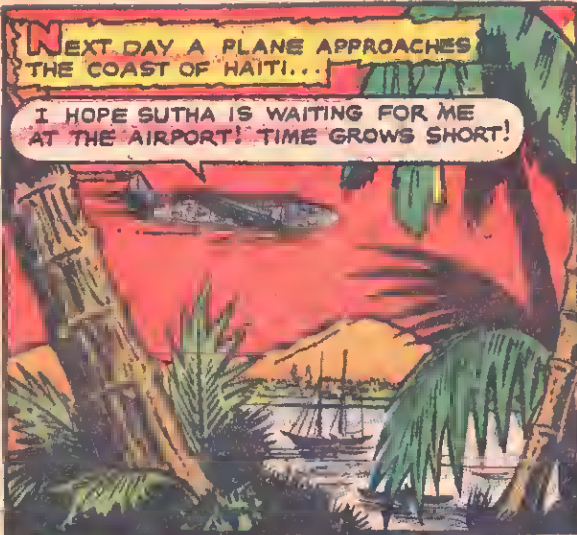
I'LL TAKE OUT A LITTLE OF HIS B-BLOOD! WHEN HE PASSES OUT, I'LL CALL THE COPS! BROTHER - WHAT A NUT!

BUT A FEW MINUTES LATER...

GOODBYE, AND THANK YOU! HERE IS MONEY! DO NOT SPEAK OF THIS TO ANYONE!

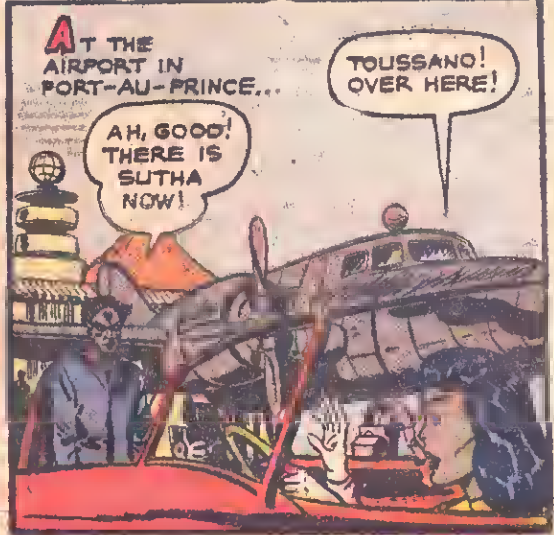
HUH! BUT YOU CAN'T - YOU'RE DEAD - YOU'RE FULL OF EMBALMING FLUID...





NEXT DAY A PLANE APPROACHES THE COAST OF HAITI...

I HOPE SUTHA IS WAITING FOR ME AT THE AIRPORT! TIME GROWS SHORT!



AT THE AIRPORT IN PORT-AU-PRINCE...

TOUSSANO! OVER HERE!

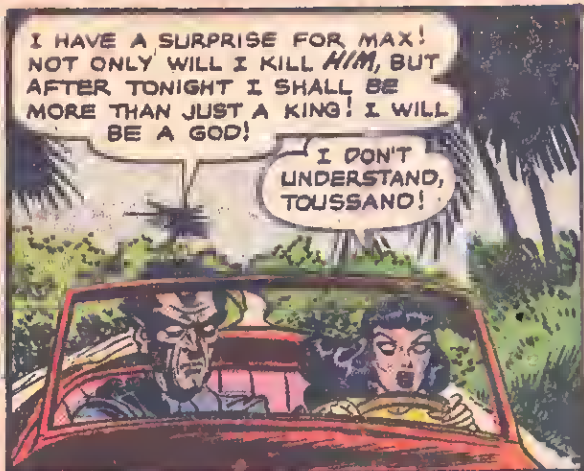
AH, GOOD! THERE IS SUTHA NOW!



LATER...

THE ORDEAL IS STILL SET FOR TONIGHT, SUTHA?

YES, TOUSSANO! MAXMILIAN TELLS EVERYBODY THAT HE WILL KILL YOU!



I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR MAX! NOT ONLY WILL I KILL HIM, BUT AFTER TONIGHT I SHALL BE MORE THAN JUST A KING! I WILL BE A GOD!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, TOUSSANO!



LATER AS TOUSSAND EXPLAINS...

YOU SEE — THE BOOK OF THE ZOMBIES! MANY PAGES ARE GONE, BUT IT IS THE LAW! ALL OUR PEOPLE MUST OBEY IT!

YES, I KNOW THAT.



AND IT IS WRITTEN THAT WHEN A ZOMBIE HAS *WHITE* BLOOD, HE MUST RULE! FOREVER! NEVER AGAIN WILL A KING BE CHOSEN BY ORDEAL! I HAVE *WHITE* BLOOD, SUTHA! I WILL BE A ZOMBIE GOD...

AT THAT MOMENT IN ANOTHER PART OF THE ZOMBIE COLONY...

THE TIME GROWS NEAR, MASTER! SOON YOU MUST FIGHT TOUSSAND FOR THE KINGSHIP!

HO—THAT ONE! I WILL KILL HIM QUICKLY! SHARPEN THE KNIFE WELL.

A ZOMBIE HIGH PRIEST PROCLAIMS THE RULES...

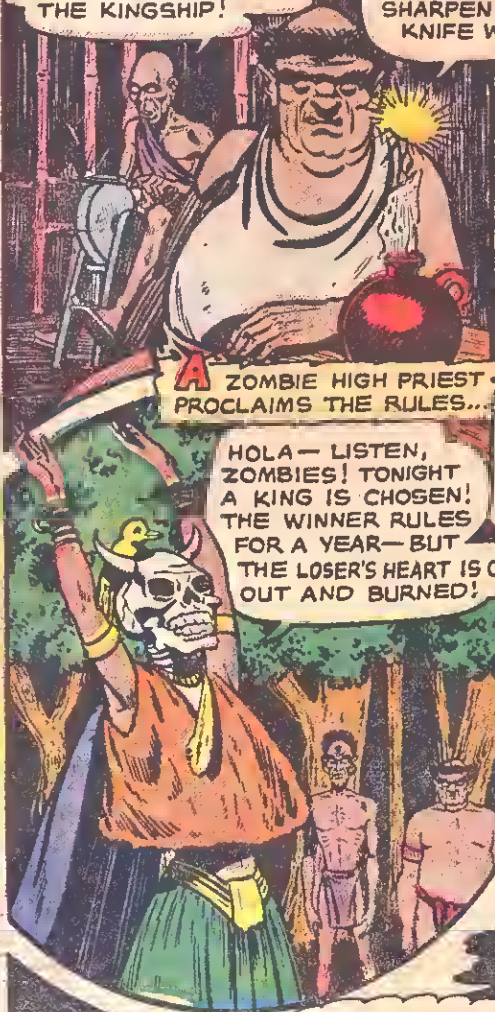
HOLA—LISTEN, ZOMBIES! TONIGHT A KING IS CHOSEN! THE WINNER RULES FOR A YEAR—BUT THE LOSER'S HEART IS CUT OUT AND BURNED!

THAT NIGHT THE DREAD BEAT OF ZOMBIE DRUMS BEGINS...

HOLA—THE DANCE OF DEATH!

IT IS TIME FOR THE CHOOSING OF A KING!

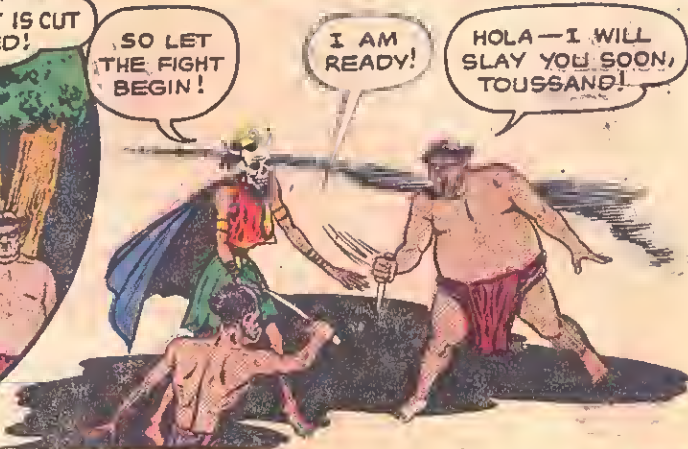
THERE IS BLOOD ON THE MOON TONIGHT!



SO LET THE FIGHT BEGIN!

I AM READY!

HOLA—I WILL SLAY YOU SOON, TOUSSAND!



EVEN A ZOMBIE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT A HEART, TOUSSAND! YOU WILL SEE!

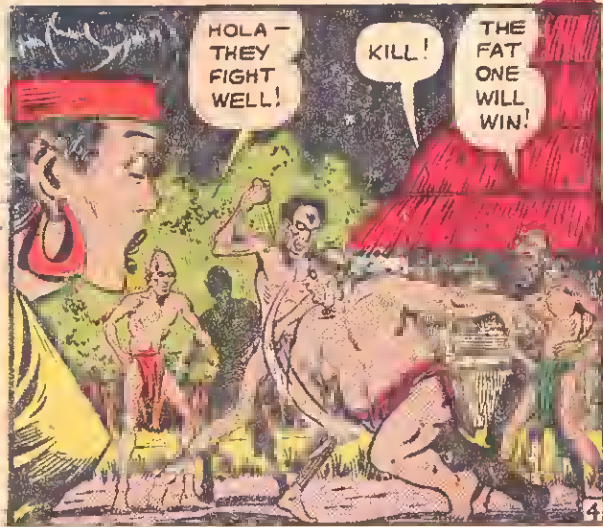
THE FOOL! BUT I MUST LET HIM CUT ME FIRST—SO THEY WILL SEE MY—HAH—WHITE BLOOD!



HOLA—THEY FIGHT WELL!

KILL!

THE FAT ONE WILL WIN!



WITH THE SUDDENNESS OF A GREAT CAT...



I KILL NOW!
FIRST YOUR THROAT—
THEN YOUR HEART!

WE WILL SEE, FOOL!



HAH— NOW I HAVE YOU!

GOOD— NOW THE EMBALMING FLUID WILL SPURT AND THEY WILL THINK IT WHITE BLOOD!



A WHITE FLUID GUSHES, A HUSH FALLS OVER THE CROWD OF ZOMBIES...

KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!

YOU SEE! MY BLOOD IS WHITE! YOU ALL

SO IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK!

HOLA— IT IS TRUE! HE IS A GOD!



HERE, TOUSSAND! HERE IS THE BOOK OF THE ZOMBIES!

YES, SUTHA! I WILL READ THE COMMAND OF THE ANCIENT GODS!



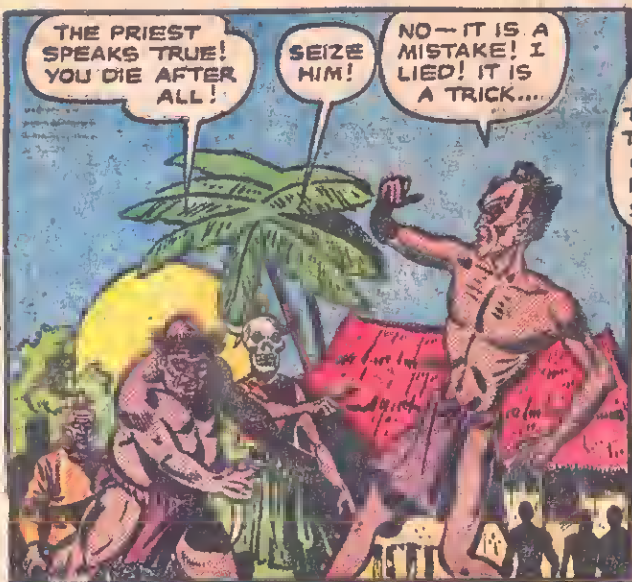
I AM A GOD NOW! I WILL RULE YOU FOREVER! WHO CAN SAY THAT IT IS NOT WRITTEN SO IN THIS ANCIENT BOOK? I AM BOTH KING AND GOD!

A MOMENT, TOUSSARD! THERE IS MORE!



THE BOOK IS TORN! YOU COULD NOT READ ALL OF IT. BUT I KNOW— AND THERE IS A PART THAT SAYS SUCH A GOD MUST BE SACRIFICED!

NO! YOU LIE, OLD FOOL! THAT PART WAS NOT IN THE BOOK!



THE PRIEST SPEAKS TRUE! YOU DIE AFTER ALL!

SEIZE HIM!

NO—IT IS A MISTAKE! I LIED! IT IS A TRICK...



BUT TOUSSARD IS CAPTURED AND BOUND...

HERE, SUTHA! THE BOOK SAYS THAT THE WIFE OF A GOD MUST PERFORM THE SACRIFICE!

N—NO! I CAN'T.

WAIT—I TELL YOU IT WAS A TRICK! I WAS EMBALMED! IT WAS NOT WHITE BLOOD!



YOU WILL OBEY, SUTHA. OR DIE WITH HIM! SO ARE THE ANCIENT LAWS!

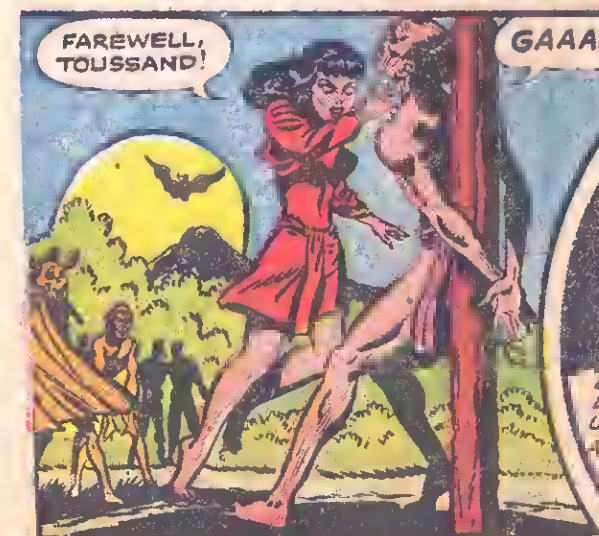
NO—DON'T KILL ME! I'LL DO IT!



NO—SUTHA! YOU ARE MY WIFE! YOU CAN'T...

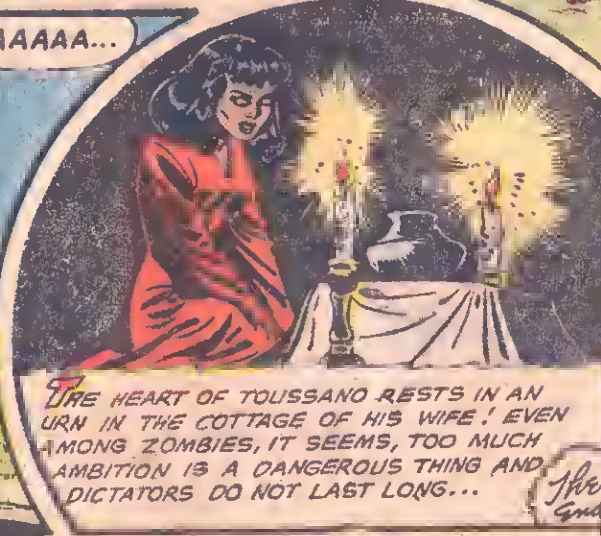
I MUST OBEY THE PRIEST!

DEEP TO THE HEART, SUTHA. LET THE KNIFE SINK DEEP!



FAREWELL, TOUSSAND!

GAAAAA...



THE HEART OF TOUSSAND RESTS IN AN URN IN THE COTTAGE OF HIS WIFE! EVEN AMONG ZOMBIES, IT SEEMS, TOO MUCH AMBITION IS A DANGEROUS THING AND DICTATORS DO NOT LAST LONG...

The End

WEIRD MYSTERIES

JAN.
No. 8
10c

10 K

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY!



I KILLED MARY!



BUM TICKER!



The
**WITCHES
CURSE**



HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN URGE TO DO SOMETHING BIG OR DARING OR SHOCKING... SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE PEOPLE TAKE NOTICE OF YOU? THEN YOU CAN PROBABLY UNDERSTAND THE EMOTIONS THAT WERE INVOLVED WHEN ROBBY ANNOUNCED,

I KILLED MARY



ROBBY HAD ALWAYS BEEN A SLOW, AWKWARD CHILD... NONDESCRIPT IN APPEARANCE... COMPLETELY LACKING IN PERSONALITY... HE WAS SO QUIET THAT HIS FOLKS OFTEN FORGOT THAT HE WAS AROUND...

COME ON, KENNY, ALBERT, SUSAN... WE'RE GOING DOWN TO THE LAKE!... OH, AND YOU TOO, ROBBY!



OTHER CHILDREN HARDLY EVER INCLUDED HIM IN THEIR GAMES BECAUSE HE WAS NEVER LAUGH GOOD AT ANYTHING...

HOW ABOUT ROBBY? AHH... WE DON'T NEED HIM... HE ALWAYS DROPS THE BALL!



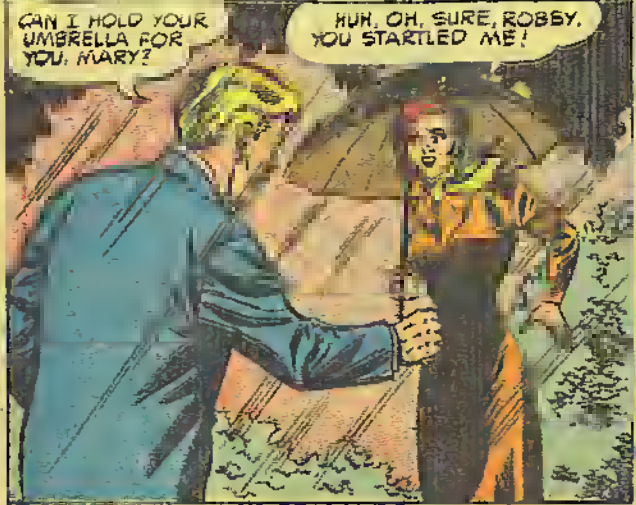
AND SO ROBBY GREW INTO ADOLESCENCE... LEFT OUT... UNWANTED... IGNORED...



MARY WAS THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN SCHOOL... ALSO THE WILDEST. BOYS TRIPPED OVER EACH OTHER TO GET NEAR HER, BUT ROBBY JUST LOOKED ON FROM A DISTANCE... TOO SHY TO APPROACH HER... WATCHING HER... DESIRING HER... HATING HER!



ONE RAINY DAY, ROBBY SAW MARY WALKING HOME ALONE. SOMEWHERE HE FOUND A SPARK OF COURAGE...



THEY STROLLED ALONG IN SILENCE, AND AS THEY WALKED, A PLAN BEGAN TO FORM IN ROBBY'S MIND...

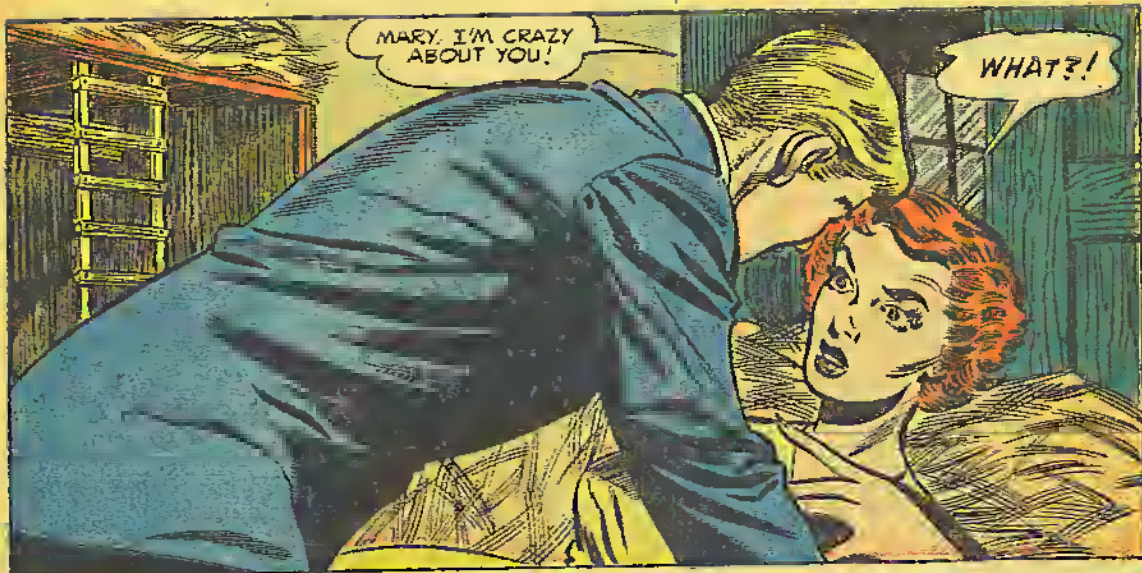


HAD IT BEEN ANY ONE OF THE OTHER BOYS, MARY WOULD HAVE SUSPECTED HIS MOTIVES. BUT ROBBY... WELL, ROBBY WAS SO HARMLESS...



AND SO, WHEN HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY STOP FOR A MOMENT IN MAXWELL'S BARN, SHE DIDN'T EVEN HESITATE. ROBBY WATCHED HER AS SHE STRETCHED OUT IN THE HAY...





MARY, I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

WHAT?!



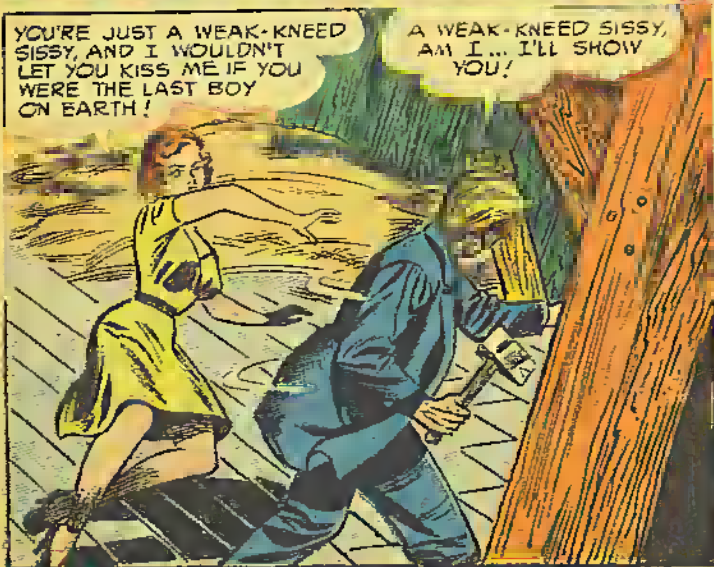
YOU'RE JUST CRAZY, IF YOU ASK ME! NOW LET ME GO!

WHY SHOULD I?



EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF GIRL YOU ARE... DON'T TRY TO BE COY WITH ME... YOU AREN'T SO SQUEMISH WITH OTHER FELLOWS!!

YES, BUT THE OTHER FELLOWS ARE ROUGH AND STRONG AND I LIKE THEM THAT WAY!



YOU'RE JUST A WEAK-KNEED SISSY, AND I WOULDN'T LET YOU KISS ME IF YOU WERE THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!

A WEAK-KNEED SISSY, AM I... I'LL SHOW YOU!



NO... NO-00000...

BLINDED BY FRUSTRATION AND FURY, HE SWUNG THE AXE AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN...



AND THEN LIMP AND TREMBLING HE STARED DAZEDLY AT WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN MARY CONWAY...

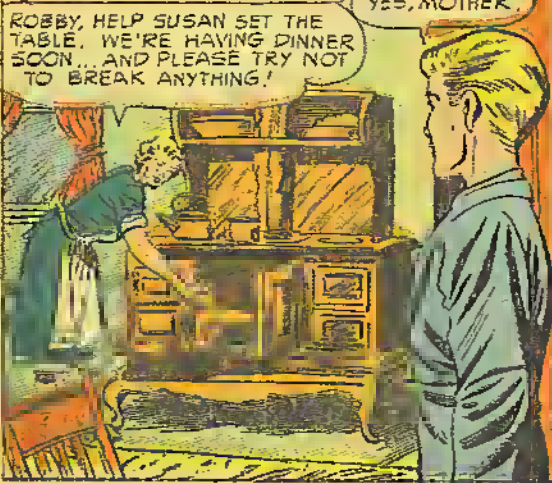


I KILLED HER! I KILLED HER! I'M GLAD!

AS HE LEFT THE SCENE OF HIS CRIME, ROBBY FELT NO REMORSE OR REVULSION AT WHAT HE HAD DONE... ONLY A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT... OF SATISFACTION! HE, ROBBY, HAD DONE SOMETHING THAT NO OTHER BOY IN TOWN WOULD HAVE DARED TO DO!



HE ARRIVED HOME IN A GLOW OF TRIUMPH... BUT HIS MOTHER'S FIRST WORDS TO HIM PUT A DAMPER ON HIS ELATION...



ROBBY, HELP SUSAN SET THE TABLE, WE'RE HAVING DINNER SOON... AND PLEASE TRY NOT TO BREAK ANYTHING!

YES, MOTHER.

I SAW YOU CARRYING MARY CONWAY'S BOOKS THIS AFTERNOON, ROBBY... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT IN YOU, SHE'S A VERY PRETTY GIRL.



NOT ANY MORE, SHE ISN'T!



WHY DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HER?

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT... I KILLED HER!



HA HA... VERY FUNNY! YOU KILLED HER... AND I SUPPOSE YOU CHOPPED HER INTO TINY PIECES AND ATE HER UP...

I DIDN'T EAT HER, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE TINY PIECES!

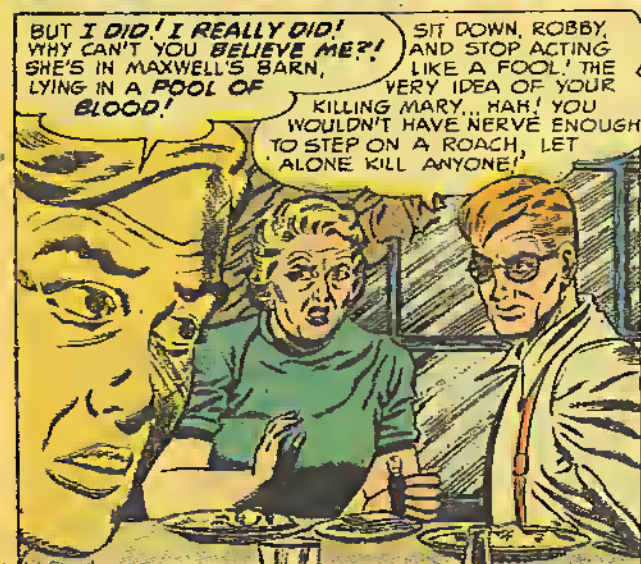
ROBBY'S SISTER SCOFFED AT HIS REMARKS... NATURALLY SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT, BUT AT DINNER THAT EVENING...



OH, DAD, DID SUSAN TELL YOU? I KILLED MARY CONWAY THIS AFTERNOON... CHOPPED HER UP WITH MR. MAXWELL'S AXE!

PLEASE, MOTHER, MUST WE LISTEN TO SUCH DISGUSTING TALK?

STOP THAT, ROBBY! THE DINNER TABLE IS NO PLACE TO EXHIBIT YOUR MORBID SENSE OF HUMOR!



BUT I DID! I REALLY DID! WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE ME? SHE'S IN MAXWELL'S BARN, LYING IN A POOL OF BLOOD!

SIT DOWN, ROBBY, AND STOP ACTING LIKE A FOOL! THE VERY IDEA OF YOUR KILLING MARY... HA! YOU WOULDN'T HAVE NERVE ENOUGH TO STEP ON A ROACH, LET ALONE KILL ANYONE!



I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT BOY, DO YOU SUPPOSE WE OUGHT TO TAKE HIM TO A PSYCHIATRIST?

HEAVENS, SAM... THE BOY IS AS NORMAL AS YOU OR I! PSYCHIATRIST INDEED!

AND ROBBY REALIZED SUDDENLY THAT IT HAD ALL BEEN IN VAIN. THEY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE THING THAT HE HAD DONE ... EVEN THE SHOCK OF MURDER COULD NOT MAKE THEM SEE...



WHEN ROBBY DIDN'T RETURN HOME THAT NIGHT, HIS FAMILY BECAME WORRIED. THE NEXT MORNING THEY WENT LOOKING FOR HIM. SOMEONE REMEMBERED HIS MENTIONING MAXWELL'S BARN...



THERE THEY FOUND HIM...

ROBBY!
OH NO!

GOOD
HEAVENS!



THEY ALSO FOUND MARY...

JUMPING JEHOSEPHAT!
LOOK HERE!



THE POLICE CALLED IT A CLEAR CASE OF MURDER AND SUICIDE, BUT THEY ATTRIBUTED THE MURDER TO SOME WANDERING MANIAC, AND THE SUICIDE ... WELL, EVERYONE AGREED THAT ROBBY MUST HAVE BEEN SECRETLY IN LOVE WITH MARY, AND WHEN HE DISCOVERED HER BODY ... WELL, IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIS SENSITIVE NERVES...



AND SO ROBBY, WHO WANTED DESPERATELY TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR SOME DEED OF DARING WAS CHEATED EVEN UNTO THE GRAVE... FOR EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ROBBY COULDN'T HURT A FLY!



THE
END

WEIRD!

FANTASTIC!

ASTOUNDING!

BAFFLING

NOVEMBER 10c 

MYSTERIES

IT'S WANDA! SHE'S
OVERCOME BY A FIENDISH
SPELL! SHE'S BEEN
FORCED TO JOIN THE
SACRIFICIAL WORSHIPERS
OF BAAL!



STEP INTO MY GRAVE!

NO/NO/IT CANNOT BE/
THAT CREATURE THAT PASSED/
HE LOOKED LIKE MY BROTHER
NIGEL-- BUT IN A STRANGE,
HORRIBLE WAY!

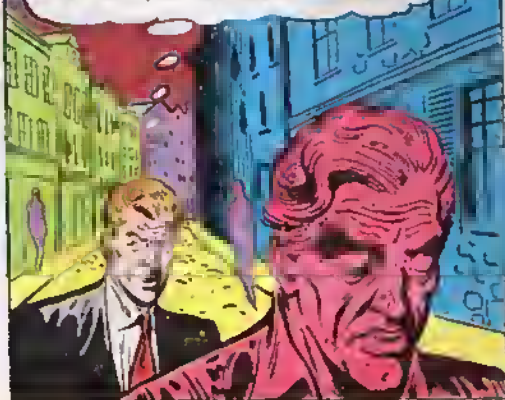


TYSON BLAGDON WOULD NOT HAVE WANTED THE WORLD TO KNOW HOW GLAD HE WAS WHEN HIS OLDER BROTHER NIGEL SUDDENLY DIED. FOR NIGEL'S DEATH MEANT THAT TYSON WOULD INHERIT THE VAST PLANTATIONS IN

ALWAYS COVETED. HE LEFT HIS JOB AS AN OBSCURE CLERK IN NEW YORK WHEN HE CAME DOWN TO HIS BROTHER'S FUNERAL, AND NOW LIFE SEEMED TO HOLD EVERYTHING A MAN COULD DESIRE. THEN, SUDDENLY, THE FIENDISH HORROR OF AN UNKNOWN WORLD DARKENED HIS PATH...

A STRANGE AND MORBID FASCINATION MADE TYSON FOLLOW THE OBJECT HE HAD SEEN...

I-I KNOW NIGEL IS DEAD/ I SAW HIM IN HIS CASKET-- SAW THE CASKET LOWERED INTO THE GRAVE/ BUT THIS THING-- I MUST FOLLOW IT, AND SEE WHERE IT GOES!



THE THING TYSON WAS FOLLOWING TURNED INTO THE VIEUX CARRÉ AND DISAPPEARED INTO A BUILDING THAT SEEMED FILLED WITH ARTISTS' STUDIOS.

ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE?

WHY, I-I THOUGHT I SAW
SOMEONE I KNEW/ I WAS FOLLOWING HIM/ I SAW YOUR DOOR OPEN AND I THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE COME IN HERE!



THE GIRL WAS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TYSON HAD EVER SEEN. HE WAS INSTANTLY INTERESTED AND INTRIGUED, EVEN THOUGH PART OF HIS MIND STILL CLUNG TO THE PECULIAR OBJECT HE HAD FOLLOWED...

I AM EMMA VURPILOT, AN ARTIST / DON'T MIND MY PETS / I CANNOT BEAR TO SEE A CAT WITHOUT A HOME, AND I GATHER IN THE STRAYS!



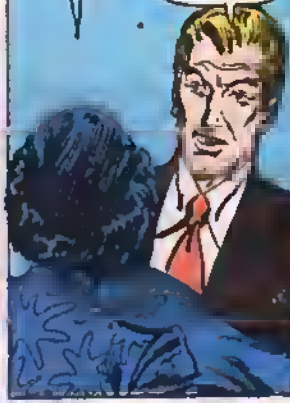
WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE PERSON YOU SEEK? PERHAPS I KNOW HIM!

I'M SURE YOU DON'T PLEASE DON'T BOTHER ABOUT IT; MY NAME IS TYSDN BLAGDON / I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE ME FOR INTRUDING!



TYSON BLAGDON / YOUR BROTHER NIGEL WAS A VERY DEAR FRIEND OF MINE / I AM SURPRISED I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU INSTANTLY!

Y-YOU KNEW NIGEL?



IT WAS SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE NIGEL I WAS FOLLOWING!

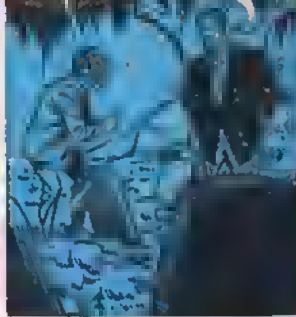
REALLY/WELL, PERHAPS IT WAS MEANT FOR US TO MEET!



BEFORE HE LEFT EMMA'S STUDIO, TYSON MADE A DATE WITH HER FOR THAT NIGHT. BUT SOMETHING MADE HIM STOP AT THE CEMETERY ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE PLANTATION...

MONSIEUR WISHES SOMETHING?

NO... NO... JUST PAYING MY RESPECTS TO THE DEAD...



WHILE IN THE BACK ROOM OF EMMA VURPILOT'S STUDIO, A STRANGE SCENE WAS TAKING PLACE!

TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT YOU WILL TAKE POSSESSION OF NIGEL BLAGDON'S PLANTATION / NIGEL WILL LEAD YOU THERE / KEEP YOURSELVES HIDDEN, READY TO OBEY MY COMMANDS / DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY?

YES, MAMALDI-- WE UNDERSTAND-- WE OBEY!

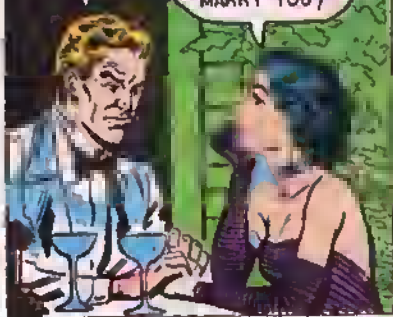


THAT NIGHT, THE WEIRD MARCH OF THE ZOMBIES TOWARD THE BLAGDON PLANTATION WAS LED BY THE MAN TO WHOM THE PLANTATION ONCE BELONGED; AND THE SINISTER SOUND OF THEIR MOANS DRIFTED OVER THE COUNTRY-SIDE...



WHILE IN A GLAMOROUS AND ROMANTIC SETTING, QUITE ANOTHER SCENE WAS TAKING PLACE...

EMMA, YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I'VE EVER MET! I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THE MOMENT I SAW YOU!
I DO NOT THINK THIS IS SUDDEN / I THINK IT IS SOMETHING THAT HAD TO BE!
ME-- OR AM I BEING TOO SUDDEN?
YES-- I WILL MARRY YOU!

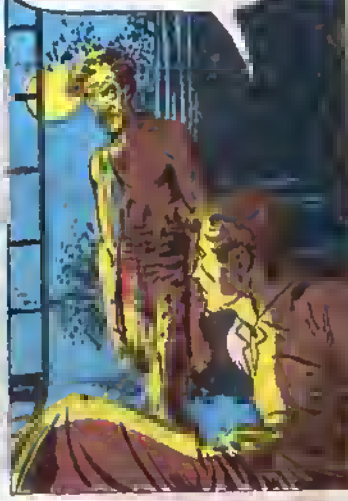


BUT THAT NIGHT, WHEN TYSON RETURNED TO THE PLANTATION...

TYSON-- MY BROTHER-- SOME TIE OF BLOOD, STRONGER THAN THE EVIL POWER THAT NOW GUIDES MY MOVEMENTS, GIVES ME STRENGTH TO WARN YOU! DO NOT MARRY EMMA, OR MY FATE AWAITS YOU!



THAT VOICE / IT-IT'S NIGEL'S! THE THING AGAIN? THE THING I SAW TODAY! BUT THE DEAD CANNOT COME BACK! I'M DREAMING-- IT'S A NIGHTMARE!



AT THE SAME TIME, NEAR THE PLANTATION...

NIGEL ATTEMPTS TO THROW OFF MY POWER! HE SHALL FEEL MY LASH AND KNOW HOW USELESS IT IS!



YIIIEEEEE! NO! NO! MAMALDI! I OBEY! EEEYAAAAH!



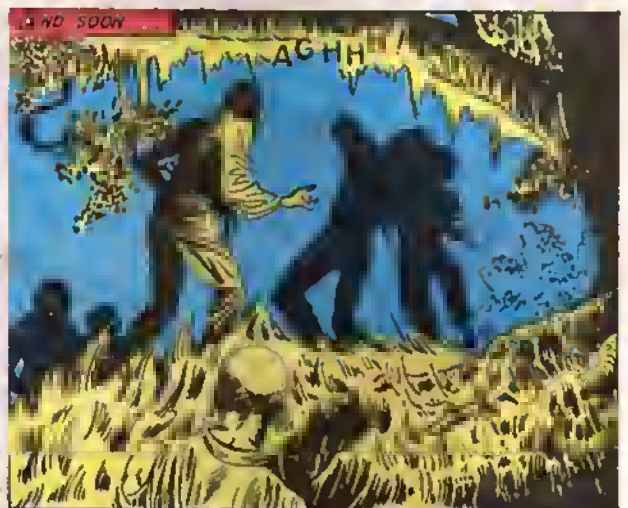
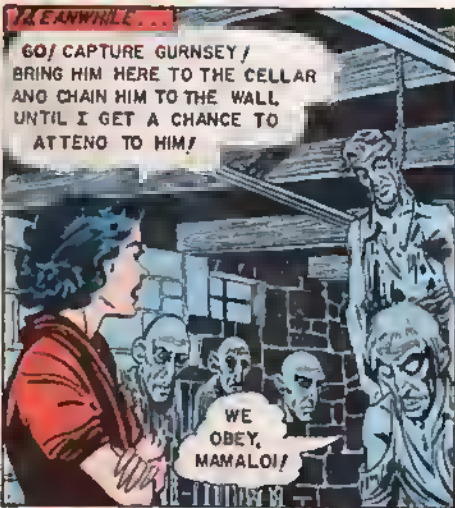
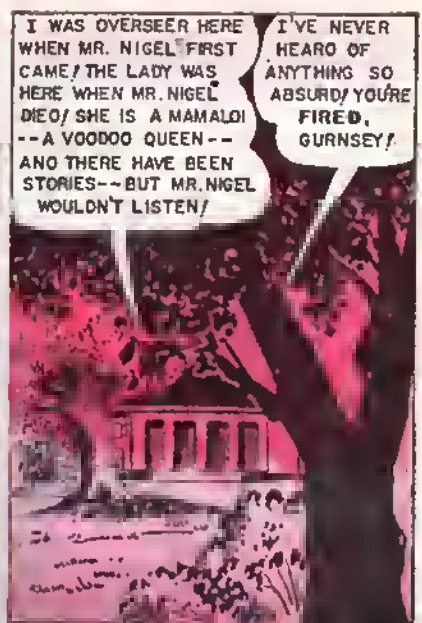
WHY SHOULD NIGHTMARES OF NIGEL HAUNT ME? HE IS DEAD AND HIS POSSESSIONS ARE MINE, AND STILL HE TRIES TO SPOIL THINGS! BUT IT MUST BE MY MIND PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!



THE NEXT DAY, IN THE BEAUTIFUL SUNSHINE OF THE PLANTATION, TYSON SUCCEEDED IN FULLY CONVINCING HIMSELF HE HAD BEEN THE VICTIM OF A NIGHTMARE. THAT SAME WEEK, HE AND EMMA WERE MARRIED...

WHAT MORE CAN A MAN WANT THAN A BEAUTIFUL WIFE TO SHARE HIS MANSION? ARE YOU HAPPY, EMMA?
VERY HAPPY, TYSON!
MAY I SPEAK TO YOU, SIR-- ALONE?





YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE SERVANTS AND PLANTATION WORKERS! I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN NEW ONES!

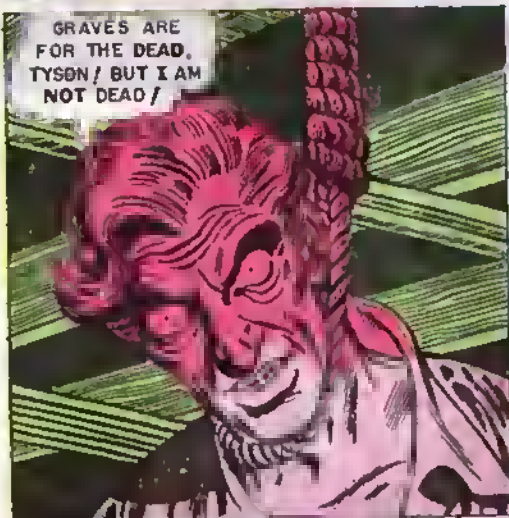
BUT-BUT, EMMA-- THEY'RE STRANGE-LOOKING!



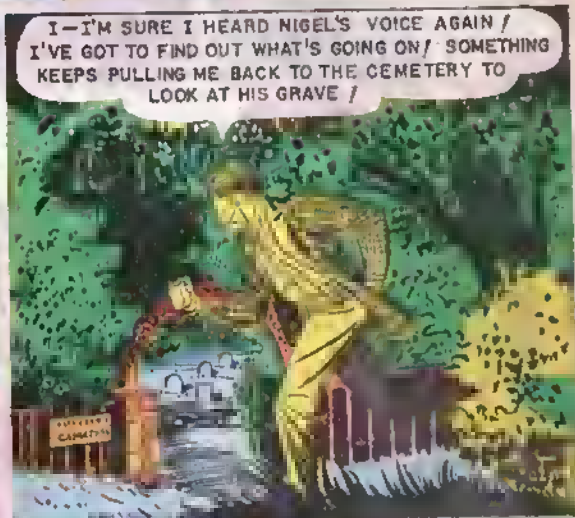
JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME, DEAR! I'M A WONDERFUL MANAGER!



GRAVES ARE FOR THE DEAD, TYSON! BUT I AM NOT DEAD!



I--I'M SURE I HEARD NIGEL'S VOICE AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON! SOMETHING KEEPS PULLING ME BACK TO THE CEMETERY TO LOOK AT HIS GRAVE!



MY BROTHER'S GRAVE -- EMPTY!

AH-- WE HAVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR! YOU ARE PREMATURE, MY FRIEND! WE DO NOT HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU-- YET!



W-WHERE IS MY DEAD BROTHER'S BODY, YOU OLD GHOUL?

YOUR BROTHER IS NOT DEAD! OUR QUEEN DID THE TRICK WITH A POISON THAT INDUCES A COMA SO DEEP, IT EXHIBITS ALL SIGNS OF DEATH, EVEN TO GOOLING OF THE BOE AND RIGOR MORTIS!



AS HE SPOKE, THE OLD MAN LEAPED AT TYSON AND KNOCKED HIM OFF OF HIS FEET!

THEN, AFTER THE FUNERAL, WE "RESURRECT" THE VICTIM! HE BECOMES A ZOMBIE-- A SLAVE TO OUR VOODOO QUEEN! OUR QUEEN PERMITS HIM TO LIVE, BUT HE HAS NEITHER WILL NOR INTELLIGENCE! HE MUST DO AS MAMALOI COMMANDS!



SINCE MAMALOI HAS NOT HAD TIME TO ADMINISTER THE POISON TO YOU AS YET, WE WILL DISPOSE OF YOU OTHERWISE! PERHAPS YOUR BROTHER'S GRAVE SHOULD NOT GO UNOCCUPIED!



TYSON GATHERED HIS STRENGTH AND TORE THE CLAW-LIKE FINGERS FROM HIS THROAT! THEN...

I'M NOT QUITE READY FOR THE GRAVE YET!



MUST GET TO TOWN AND GET THE AUTHORITIES!



SUDDENLY...

MAMALOI FIND YOU GONE! MAMALOI WANT YOU!

NO! NO! LET ME ALONE! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU ALL! I'M TRYING TO GET HELP FOR YOU!



TOO LATE TO SAVE -- TOO LATE -- TOO LATE!



TYSON WAS DRAGGED THROUGH THE SWAMP TO A SCENE OF CHILLING HORROR!

NOW, AT LAST SHALL YOU REALLY DIE, NIGEL BLAGDON, FOR DEFYING THE VOODOO POWER THAT HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN TO ME FROM MY MOTHER, MY GRANDMOTHER, MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER AND BEYOND! YOUR LIVING HEART SHALL BE TORN FROM YOUR TORTURED BODY BEFORE THE EYES OF YOUR BROTHER, WHO SHALL THEN MEET A LIKE FATE!



THEN SHALL THE BLAGDON PLANTATION BELONG TO ME AND MY ZOMBIES, A STRONG-HOLD FOR MY CULT, GROWING MORE AND MORE POWERFUL, UNTIL NONE SHALL DARE DEFY US!



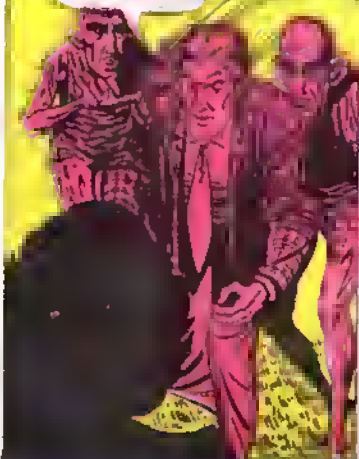
YOU ARE HERE, MY HUSBAND! NOW YOU SHALL SEE YOUR WIFE'S POWER FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME!

YOU SHE-DEVIL! WHAT A FOOL I WAS!



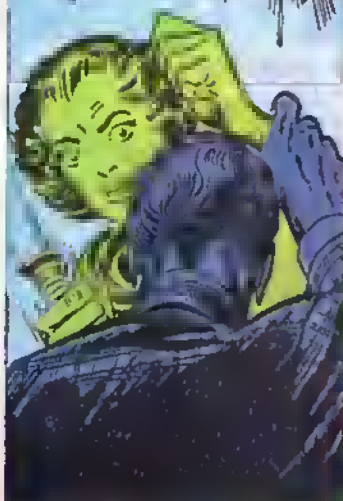
WITH A DESPERATE, SUPERHUMAN EFFORT, TYSON BROKE THE ZOMBIES' HOLD AND GRABBED HIS WIFE...

BEFORE THEY DESTROY ME, I'LL DESTROY YOU AND YOUR EVIL!



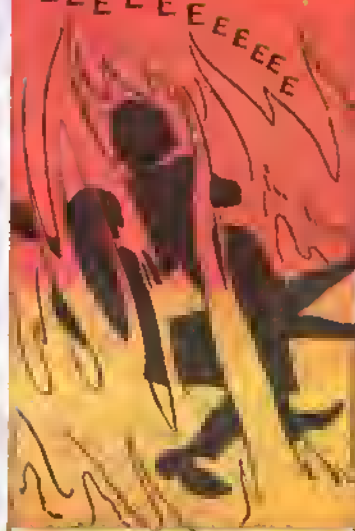
YOU FOOL! THERE!

ARRRR!



AS TYSON FELL, HE CARRIED EMMA WITH HIM INTO THE FIRE!

EEEEEEEEEEEE



AS THOUGH RELEASED AT LAST FROM THE POWER THAT HELD THEM IN FEARFUL BONDAGE, THE ZOMBIES GRABBED BITS OF THE FLAMING WOOD AND SET FIRE TO EVERYTHING, DESTROYING THEMSELVES AND EVERYTHING ELSE! AND SO AT LAST, EVIL BURNED ITSELF OUT, ALONG WITH THAT WHICH IT HAD TOUCHED!



HAVING ROAMED THE BAYOUS AS ONE OF THE UNDEAD FOR WEEKS, NIGEL BLAGDON FOUND FINAL PEACE AT LAST ON THE SAME DAY AS HIS YOUNGER BROTHER'S DEATH...



THE END

THRILLING TALES OF HORROR & SUSPENSE

NOV.

10¢

FREE ADVENTURES

DARK MYSTERIES

NO. 9

PLEASE LET ME GO! I DO NOT WANT TO DIE! I'M NOT A VOODOO GODDESS!



WITCH'S FEAST AT DAWN
TERROR OF THE VOODOO GHOULS

WITCHES

FEAST AT DAWN



THIS MUST BE THE WITCH!
THANK GOD IT'S NOT MY MOTHER!

ARRRRGH....

THERE'S GINA. IS THAT
HER MOTHER, OLD NANCE?

LET'S WAIT AND SEE.
THEY MAY BE WORKING
TOGETHER.

© C. Hollingsworth



IN THE FAINT LIGHT BEFORE DAWN WHEN THE WITCHES ARE WONT TO COME, A YOUNG GIRL COMES TO A GRAVEYARD SEEKING HER MOTHER. CAN THIS HORRIBLE CREATURE COMING TOWARD HER BE HER MOTHER, THE PERSON THE VILLAGERS CALL OLD NANCE? IRATE VILLAGERS HAVE COME TO FIND OUT THE SAME THING.

FOR SIX MONTHS GRUESOME HAPPENINGS HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE IN BALD TREE CEMETERY. BODIES OF NEWLY-DEAD WERE RIPPED FROM THEIR COFFINS, THEIR FLESH TORN FROM THEIR BONES...

ONLY LAST NIGHT LILY WAS BURIED...

IT'S THE WITCH'S WORK—OLD NANCE!
HER HUSBAND DIED SIX MONTHS AGO,
THEN IT ALL STARTED.



BETTER KEEP QUIET ABOUT WITCHES. HERE COMES NANCE'S DAUGHTER, GINA.

IT'S HER MOTHER DID THIS HORRIBLE THING...



LIKE THE OTHER TOWNSFOLK, GINA WAS DRAWN TO THE SCENE OF DESECRATION. HER SWEETHEART, NED RUSHED TO PROTECT HER FROM THE CRUEL GOSSIP.

HOW HORRIBLE! HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

DON'T STAY, GINA. COME HOME, DEAR.

"THAT'S RIGHT. WE DON'T WANT HER AROUND."



DESPITE THE CONSTABLE'S WARNING NOT TO GOSSIP, THE VILLAGERS DISCUSSED THE FRIGHTENING OCCURANCE AT THE CEMETERY.

TRUE IT ALL STARTED WHEN OLD NANCE'S HUSBAND DIED.

SHE MUST BE THE WITCH!



LILY'S SISTER SAID ONCE IN THE CEMETERY, I HEARD NANCE AND WHEN I LOOKED I SAW ONLY A VAMPIRE BAT.

OH, NO!



AS GINA DRESSED FOR HER DATE WITH NED THAT NIGHT, SHE WONDERED IF HE WOULD COME HE MIGHT BE INFECTED WITH THOSE AWFUL SUSPICIONS...

MAKE YOURSELF PRETTY FOR NED, DARLING. HE'LL BE HERE SOON.

MAYBE HE WON'T COME...



HOW DARE YOU CALL MY MOTHER A WITCH! YOU FOUL TONGUED...

STOP, GINA! COME AWAY!



DON'T CRY, DAUGHTER. NO USE FIGHTING. COME HOME WITH ME.

BUT, MOTHER, THEY ACCUSE YOU! THEY'RE CALLING YOU A WITCH!



SEE, GINA. NED IS HERE ALREADY.

HOW COULD THEY SAY MY MOTHER'S THE WITCH!



I TH-THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T COME, NED. THOSE STORIES ABOUT MOTHER.....

WHY, DARLING, THEY'RE NON-SENSE! I'LL HELP FIND THE MONSTER, AND THEN THEY'LL LEAVE YOU BOTH ALONE.

YES! WE WILL WATCH EVERY NIGHT.



THE FRIGHTENED VILLAGERS FORMED A COMMITTEE TO WATCH AT THE CEMETERY EVERY NIGHT, FOR THE GHOUL.

MOTHER'S SO GENTLE AND SWEET. HOW CAN THEY ACCUSE HER OF SUCH THINGS! WE OUGHT TO MOVE AWAY.

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS BUSINESS.



THEN, SUDDENLY, TRAGEDY STRUCK THE TWO LOVERS...

HURRY, NED, IT'S LATE.... NED! LOOK OUT! A RATTLER....!

I'M COM.... WHAT? UGH....



BUT THE DEADLY SNAKE WAS TOO QUICK FOR NED AND INFLECTED HIS POISONOUS BITE IN A FATAL SPOT.

NO, NO! NED! IT CAN'T BE THAT YOU'RE - DEAD! MY DARLING....



AT NED'S FUNERAL THE VILLAGERS WERE FILLED WITH HEAVY FOREBODING.

THE GHOUL DIDN'T SHOW UP ALL WEEK, BUT MAYBE TONIGHT...

THIS IS THE FIRST BURIAL SINCE WE STARTED WATCHING.



WHERE'S OLD NANCE?

WHY ISN'T MOTHER HERE? SHE SAID SHE'D COME!



SUDDENLY THE MOURNERS HEARD A WHIRRING SOUND AND SAW...

A VAMPIRE BAT! IT MUST BE THE WITCH!

MAYBE IT'S OLD NANCE.





AFTER THE BURIAL OF NED, GINA HURRIED HOME

EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT MOTHER'S NOT BEING THERE! COULD IT BE TRUE - WHAT THEY SAY?



MOTHER, WHY WEREN'T YOU AT NED'S FUNERAL?

WITH ALL THE GOSSIP, DAUGHTER, I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT.



AFTER THE FUNERAL, THE VILLAGERS DECIDED TO DOUBLE THE WATCH THAT NIGHT.

THE WITCH WILL BE OUT FOR A FEAST THIS DAWN.

WE'LL BE READY FOR HER!



HERE'S A GOOD SPOT.

WE CAN HIDE HERE AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS.



MEANWHILE, OLD NANCE GAVE HER DAUGHTER SOME MOTHERLY ADVICE.

YOU NEED SLEEP AND REST, GINA. GO UPSTAIRS NOW, DEAR.

YOU'RE RIGHT MOTHER

BUT LATER I'M GOING TO JOIN THE WATCHERS AT THE GRAVE!



I'LL SLEEP TILL MIDNIGHT - THEN I'LL GO TO THE CEMETERY.

EXHAUSTED, GINA SLEPT ON. IT WAS ALREADY PAST MIDNIGHT...



OH-I'VE OVERSLEPT! THE CEMETERY-I MUST GO...



MOTHER'S NOT IN HER ROOM! WHERE CAN SHE BE? IS IT POSSIBLE SHE WENT TO NED'S GRAVE?



THE TERRIBLE SUSPICIONS OF HER MOTHER DROVE GINA WILDLY TOWARD THE CEMETERY.

IT CAN'T BE TRUE THAT MY MOTHER'S THE WITCH! IT CAN'T!



WHO'S THAT? CAN IT-BE-



AS THE EVIL LOOKING CREATURE BENT OVER HER, GINA FELT A STRANGE RELIEF, AS WELL AS TERROR.

HELP! HELP!

BUT IT'S NOT MOTHER!
OH, THANK GOD!



THE WATCHING VILLAGERS POUNCED ON THE EVIL CREATURE, JUST IN TIME TO SAVE GINA.

AT LAST, WE'VE GOT THE MONSTER.

IT'S FREDDY, THE VILLAGE IDIOT!

WHY DIDN'T WE GUESS BEFORE?



ALL OF US OWE YOU AND YOUR MOTHER AN APOLOGY, GINA. WE'VE BEEN STUPID. PLEASE FORGIVE US.



LET US TAKE YOU HOME, GINA. NO MORE WATCHING THE GRAVES. WE'VE GOT THE CULPRIT.



GET SOME REST, GINA. THERE ARE STILL HOURS FOR SLEEP.



THANK YOU.

MOTHER, MOTHER! WHERE ARE YOU? EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW.



YES, GINA. HERE I AM.

OH, MOTHER, IT WASN'T A WITCH AT ALL. IT WAS FREDDY, THE IDIOT.



HOW DO YOU KNOW, CHILD?

HE ATTACKED ME, MOTHER. HE ALMOST KILLED ME. BUT—WHERE WERE YOU? YOU LEFT THE HOUSE, MOTHER. WHERE DID YOU GO?



GINA, DEAR, DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING—
EXCITING—IN THIS EARLY DAWN? DON'T YOU
YEARN FOR NED?



GINA BECAME AWARE OF A STRANGE SENSATION,
AS THOUGH IN ANSWER TO HER MOTHER'S QUESTION.

WH—WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MOTHER?



YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH NOW TO KNOW THE
TRUTH. I **AM** THE WITCH OF THE GRAVES.
AND YOU ARE LIKE ME. WHEN WE LOSE OUR
MEN WE BECOME WITCHES. COME, IT GROWS
LATE.

WHERE-ARE-WE-GOING?



GINA ACHED FOR NED. SHE KNEW NOW SHE
WASN'T THE SAME WITHOUT HIM.

FOLLOW ME—WE ARE GOING TO
NED. I WILL TEACH YOU MY
ART.

I AM COMING,
MOTHER!



AS THEY ENTERED THE GRAVEYARD, GINA KNEW
FOR CERTAIN THAT SHE WAS LIKE HER MOTHER—
A WITCH. THESE STRANGE STIRRINGS WERE
EXCITING, THRILLING....

WE MUST HURRY WITH OUR WORK. DAWN IS
FADING FAST.

YES—LET US WORK FAST, MOTHER.
SOON I WILL BE WITH
NED!



SHOW ME, MOTHER, SHOW ME YOUR ART.

HEEE HEE HEE. YOU ARE AN
EAGER PUPIL, DAUGHTER.
YOU WILL LEARN FAST.

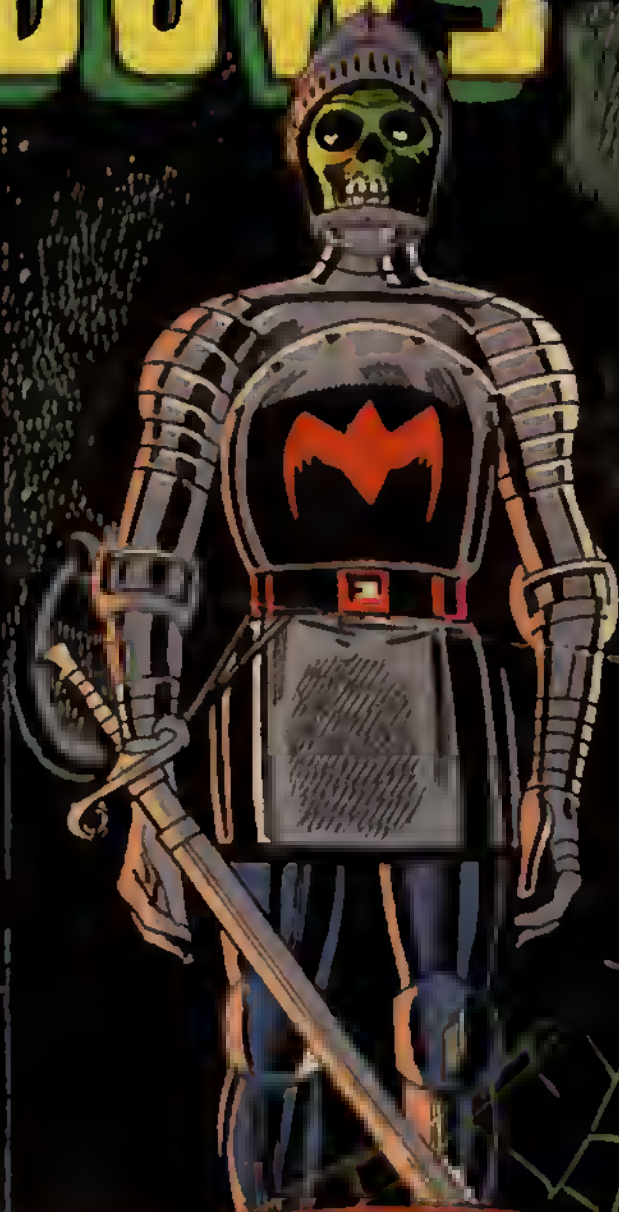


STRANGE, EERIE, TERRIFYING

ANC
10c

No. 14

OUT OF THE SHADOWS



EERIE! FRIGHTFUL!
THE WEREWOLF

JUNK-MAN'S TREASURE



YOU KNOW WHAT I HEARD, DANNY? HE'S LOADED! GOT LOTS OF DOUGH IN THAT SHACK OF HIS!

AH--YOU'RE NUTS! HE'S A JUNK MAN WHO LIVES LIKE A BEGGAR! DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR!

VB 46

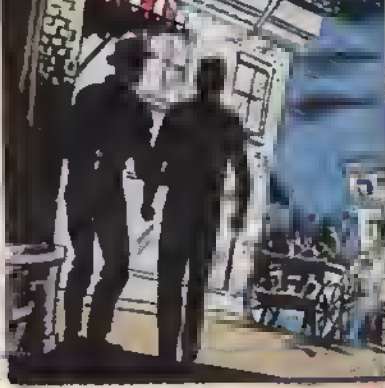
YEAH? SPIV LOOKED THROUGH THE WINDOW ONE DAY AND SAW THE OLD MAN PUTTING SOMETHING IN A TRUNK-- WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S GOT IN IT-- OLD NEWSPAPERS?

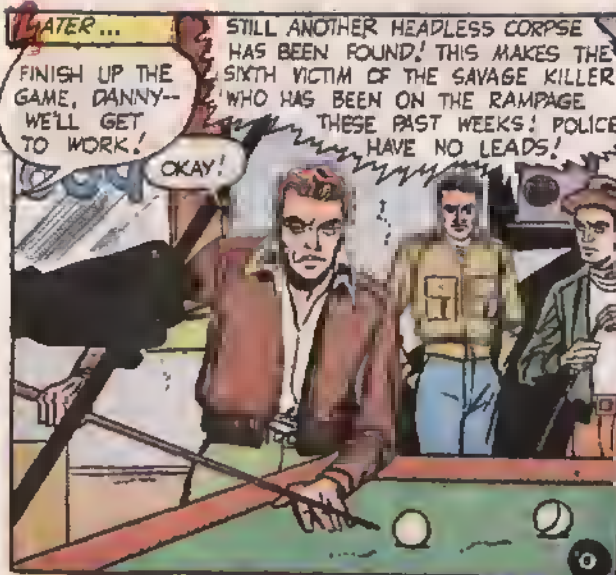
MAYBE YOU GOT SOMETHING, CHET! I COULD BE WRONG! SOMETIMES THESE GUYS

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, DANNY! WE GOT TO TAKE A LOOK INTO THAT TRUNK!

COUNT ME IN, CHET--WHenever YOU SAY!

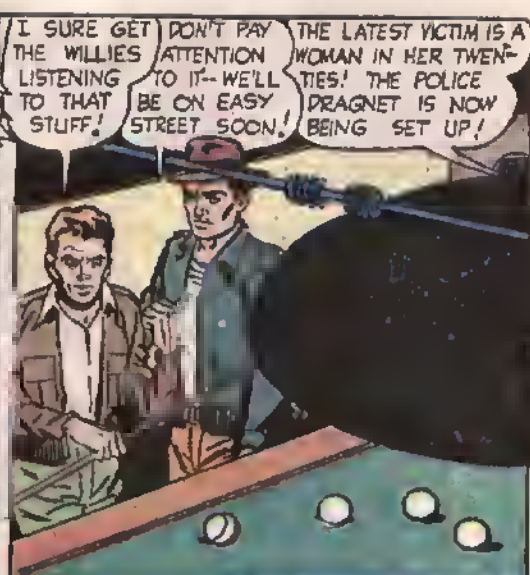
TONIGHT! WE'LL DO IT TONIGHT! WE'LL SHOOT POOL UNTIL IT'S TIME!





LATER...
FINISH UP THE GAME, DANNY-- WE'LL GET TO WORK!
OKAY!

STILL ANOTHER HEADLESS CORPSE HAS BEEN FOUND! THIS MAKES THE SIXTH VICTIM OF THE SAVAGE KILLER WHO HAS BEEN ON THE RAMPAGE THESE PAST WEEKS! POLICE HAVE NO LEADS!



I SURE GET DON'T PAY THE WILLIES LISTENING TO IT-- WE'LL BE ON EASY STREET SOON!

THE LATEST VICTIM IS A WOMAN IN HER TWENTIES! THE POLICE DRAGNET IS NOW BEING SET UP!

THE TWO YOUTHS MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE JUNK-MAN'S TRUCK THROUGH THE DISMAL, SORDID SLUMS OF THE CITY, OUT BY THE CITY DUMPS..



AAAA!
WHAT WAS THAT?

YOU'RE WORSE'N AN OLD WOMAN, DANNY! IT WAS ONLY A RAT, THAT'S ALL! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!

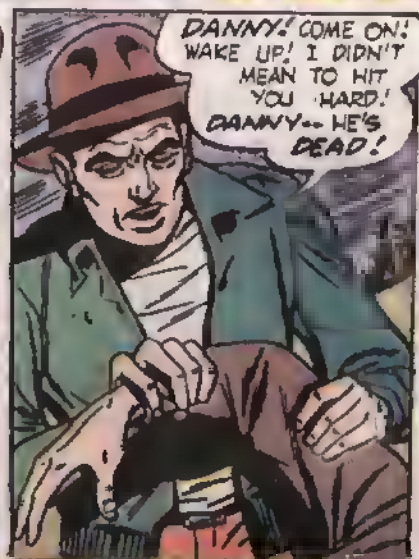
I- I'M JUMPY-- ALL THAT TALK ABOUT THE MANGLED BODIES GOT ON MY NERVES! MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T DO THIS!

YOU'RE TURNING CHICKEN-- I GOT WAYS OF HANDLING GUYS LIKE YOU!



THIS'LL STRAIGHTEN YOU OUT!

OH!!!



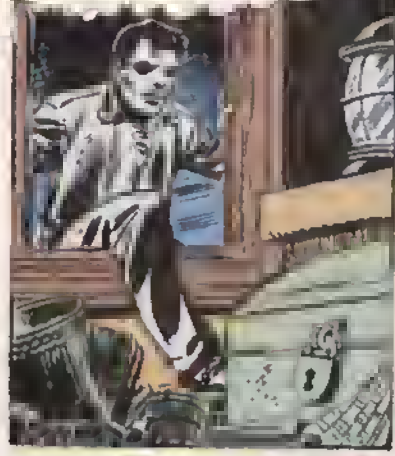
DANNY! COME ON! WAKE UP! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT YOU HARD! DANNY-- HE'S DEAD!



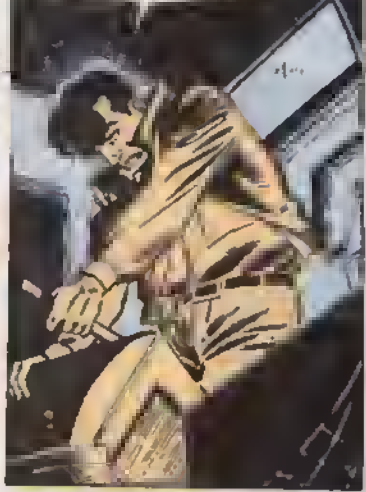
SO IT WAS AN ACCIDENT-- DANNY SHOULDN'T HAVE TURNED YELLOW! NOW-- I'LL HAVE ALL THE DOUGH MYSELF-- I'LL COVER HIM UP IN THE DUMP! THEY'LL NEVER FIND HIM!

SOON CHET ENTERS THE SHACK...

AH, THERE'S THE TRUNK!
DARK IN HERE... BETTER
LIGHT THE LAMP!



ANOTHER COUPLE OF
SECONDS AND I'LL
HAVE IT!



THERE'S ANOTHER BOX IN
HERE -- THE MONEY'S IN
HERE I'LL BET...



IT'S OPENING!



YAAAAA!



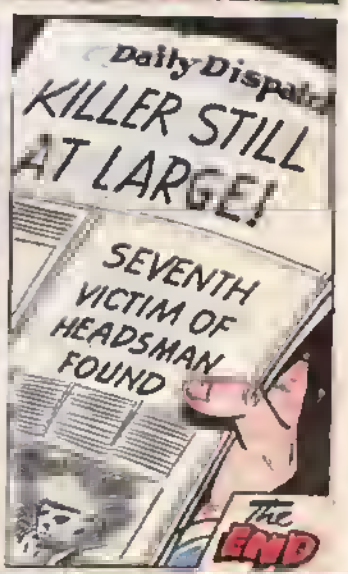
WELL, LAD... SO YOU FOUND MY
TREASURE, EH? YOU'LL
MAKE A FINE SPECIMEN
FOR MY COLLECTION!

NO! PLEASE! NO!



Daily Dispatch
**KILLER STILL
AT LARGE!**

**SEVENTH
VICTIM OF
HEADSMAN
FOUND**



**THE
END**

WITCHES
TALES

WE DARE YOU TO READ THESE EERIE TALES
OF SUPERNATURAL HORROR!

WITCHES TALES

No. 4
JULY

PDC

WEIRD
YARNS OF
UNSEEN
TERRORS

10c



ON FRIDAYS, THE 13TH, THE PRACTITIONERS OF EVIL AND SORCERY MEET TO INITIATE THE APPRENTICED EVIL ONES INTO THE INNER CIRCLE! THIS IS HOW DORA MAYBERRY WAS AN APPRENTICE IN...

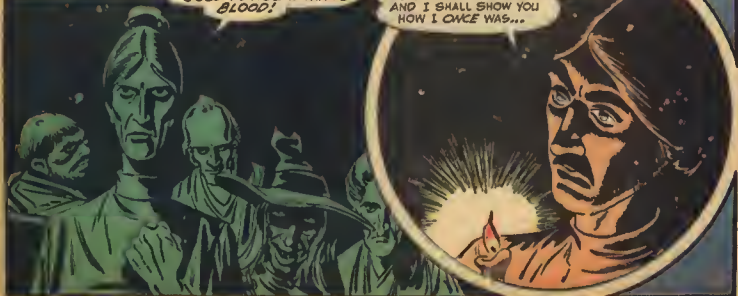
DEATH BY

WITCHCRAFT!



YES... I WILL TELL YOU HOW I SAW MEN *BREAK* LIKE STRAWS IN THE WIND - NOW THEIR SCREAMS SPLIT THE SILENT NIGHT AIR!! I WILL TELL YOU NOW WHY I AM ONE OF YOU... LISTEN CLOSELY, FOR MY TALE RUNS COLD AS A DEAD MAN'S BLOOD!

IT STARTED MANY YEARS AGO BEFORE THE CRUEL HAND OF TIME SCARRED MY FACE WITH LINES AND WRINKLES!! LOOK CLOSE... LOOK CLOSE... AND I SHALL SHOW YOU HOW I ONCE WAS...



I WAS A YOUNG, AMBITIOUS GIRL THEN IGNORANT OF THE WICKEDNESS IN THE WORLD... THINKING ONLY OF ARNOLD CAVENDISH... AND MYSELF.

HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE... SEE HOW SHE TRANSFORMS HERSELF! GO ON... TELL US, NEW DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS!



MISS DORA... THERE'S A MR. CAVENDISH DOWN STAIRS IN THE WAITING ROOM... SUCH A DISTINGUISHED LOOKING GENTLEMAN!

THANK YOU... TELL HIM I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN...



DORA, MY DEAR!

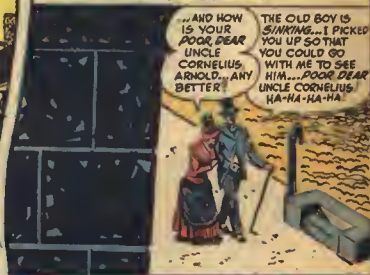
ARNOLD, I... I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU ALL DAY!! ON, ARNOLD... YOU MUSTN'T... THE WALLS HAVE EARS... AND EYES!



ARNOLD WAS MORE THAN A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN MISS DORA BUT THEN, IT WAS NOT THE MAN I WAS INTERESTED IN REALLY!! I KNEW, AS EVERY GIRL LIVING IN TOWN KNEW, THAT HE WAS THE ONLY LIVING RELATIVE OF HIS UNCLE, CORNELIUS CAVENDISH, THE BILLIONAIRE!!

...AND HOW IS YOUR POOR DEAR UNCLE CORNELIUS ARNOLD... ANY BETTER?

THE OLD BOY IS SINKING... I PICKED YOU UP SO THAT YOU COULD GO WITH ME TO SEE HIM... POOR DEAR UNCLE CORNELIUS HA-HA-HA-HA!



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT IT WILL MEAN WHEN THE OLD COOT DIES? WHY I'LL BE ONE OF THE RICHEST IN THE COUNTRY, AND YOU, MY SWEET WILL BE MY WIFE!

YES, ARNOLD... WE HAVE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME



HURRY, MR. CAVENDISH... I'M AFRAID THE OLD MAN IS LOW...

IF I KNOW MY UNCLE, HE WOULDN'T DIE WITHOUT GIVING EVEN DEATH A STRUGGLE!

(COUGH-COUGH-COUGH) LET GO OF ME, DRAT YE!! I DON'T NEED A BLASTED WOMAN TO HOLD ME UP!! (COUGH-COUGH) EIGHTY YEARS I'VE STOOD ON MY OWN TWO FEET.



SO YOU'VE COME TO SEE ME DIE, EH? (COUGH-COUGH) AND YOU BACK THERE! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE COUNTING MY MONEY ALREADY!! I KNOW YOUR KIND... I CAN SEE THE GREED IN YOUR EYES!

NOW, NOW, UNCLE! YOU KNOW WE BOTH WISH THE BEST FOR YOU!

MY MONEY WILL BRING YOU NOTHING BUT GRIEF!! (COUGH-COUGH) MARK MY... WORDS... OHOOOO!!

DON'T BE A FOOL! STAY HERE... MAYBE THIS IS IT!

I... I'D BETTER CALL A DOCTOR... HE... HE LOOKS...



WE STOOD AND WATCHED THE OLD MAN GASP FOR BREATH, FLAIL HIS ARMS AS IF HE WERE GRAPPLING WITH THE INVISIBLE FORCE OF DEATH!! FINALLY THERE WAS A LOW RATTLE AND THEN, SILENCE, WHEN THE DOCTOR CAME...

MR. CAVENDISH! OH, WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE CALL ME??

IT... IT ALL HAPPENED SO QUICKLY DOCTOR...

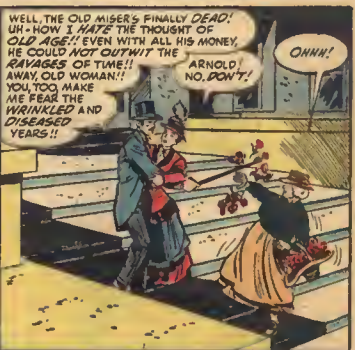
ARNOLD... TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE...



WELL, THE OLD MISER'S FINALLY DEAD! UH - HOW I HATE THE THOUGHT OF OLD AGE!! EVEN WITH ALL HIS MONEY, HE COULD NOT OUTWIT THE RAVAGES OF TIME!! AWAY, OLD WOMAN!! YOU, TOO, MAKE ME FEAR THE WRINKLED AND DISEASED YEARS!!

ARNOLD! NO, DON'T!

OHNN!



HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A MEAN THING?

WELL, THE OLD WRETCH ANNOYED ME. I'M RICH NOW... I'M POWERFUL! I CAN DO ANYTHING I CHOOSE - EXCEPT BUY OFF TIME, BUT I'LL FIND A WAY EVEN TO DO THAT!

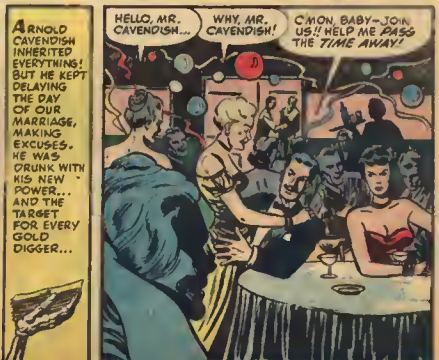
GOB!

ARNOLD CAVENDISH INHERITED EVERYTHING! BUT HE KEPT DELAYING THE DAY OF OUR MARRIAGE, MAKING EXCUSES. HE WAS DRUNK WITH HIS NEW POWER... AND THE TARGET FOR EVERY GOLD DIGGER...

HELLO, MR. CAVENDISH...

WHY, MR. CAVENDISH!

C'MON, BABY - JOIN US! HELP ME PASS THE TIME AWAY!



ARNOLD, EVER SINCE YOUR UNCLE'S DEATH YOU'VE BEEN THROWING MONEY AWAY, CHASING OTHER WOMEN... MAKING EXCUSES TO ME! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO HELPED YOU WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CENT... WHO HAS KEPT YOUR SECRET ABOUT THE HOSPITAL... WHO HAS... OH!

I'M TIRED OF YOUR NAGGING, DORA - I DON'T NEED YOU ANY LONGER, NOR YOUR SHARP TONGUE! HERE'S MY PARTING GESTURE TO YOU!

THAT BLOW BURST THE BOILING FURY THAT HAD BEEN SEETHING WITHIN ME FOR DAYS!!

ARNOLD CAVENDISH I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS HUMILIATION AND BETRAYAL IF IT TAKES ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE!

HAAAAAAAAHA!



FOR SEVERAL DAYS I PACED MY ROOM LIKE A CAPTURED BEAST! I WANTED TO STRIKE BACK, TO CLAW... TO KILL, BUT HOW... HOW?! THEN, I REMEMBERED FROM THE DAYS OF MY CHILDHOOD AN OLD WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A DISMAL SECTION OF TOWN...

MADAM SATANA... I'VE COME FOR YOUR HELP. I WANT TO LEARN...!

ENTER DORA MAYBERRY... I KNOW WHY YOU SEEK ME... MADAM SATANA KNOWS ALL THE EVILS IN THE HUMAN MIND...



THE OLDER WOMEN OF MY MOTHERS DAY WHISPER THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH, THE FUTURE AND THE PAST... THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO USE CHARMS, LOVE POTIONS AND CURSES... EVIL CURSES! BUT TELL ME, HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?!

SATANA COULD FEEL THE VIBRATIONS OF YOUR POWERFUL THOUGHTS OF VENGEANCE FOR A PRICE... HEE-HEE... FOR A PRICE, I WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO USE THE WEAPONS OF SORCERY!



YES, I WILL PAY ANYTHING! SOME SAY WOMEN ARE WEAK... BUT WE CAN DO EVIL... I WANT ARNOLD CAVENDISH TO LEARN THIS!

AHA! HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A WOMAN SCORNED. AND IN THAT LIES THE HISTORY OF WITCHERY! NOW LET US LOOK INTO THIS CRYSTAL - THE EYE THAT SEES ALL...

YOU SOUND KIND OF OFF YOUR ROCKER TO ME, CAVENDISH... BUT IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT IT'S OKAY WITH ME!!

THEN WE'RE AGREED! IN TWENTY YEARS, YOU WILL KILL ME! BUT REMEMBER, IT MUST BE PAINLESSLY! AND, IN MY WILL, I SHALL LEAVE YOU BOTH \$5000!! HA-HA! THIS WAY I CAN LIVE AS I PLEASE AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE EFFECTS WHEN I'M OLD! I'LL NEVER BE OLD!!

OKAY, CAVENDISH YOU'VE MADE A DEAL YOU HAVE SIGNED YOUR DEATH PACT!!

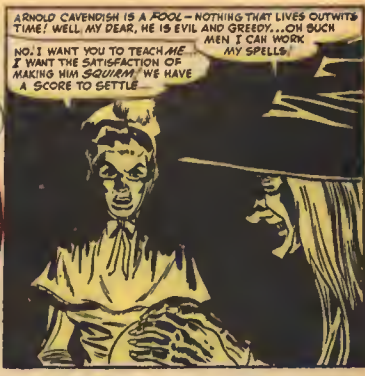




WAITER! BRING ANOTHER BOTTLE MY FRIENDS AND I ARE CELEBRATING! WE'VE JUST OUTWITTED TIME!

OH JUST HUMOR HIM... HE'S BUYIN' THE DRINKS, AIN'T HE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK SPIKE?



ARNOLD CAVENDISH IS A FOOL - NOTHING THAT LIVES OUTWITS TIME! WELL, MY DEAR, HE IS EVIL AND GREEDY... OH SUCH MEN I CAN WORK MY SPELLS!

NO! I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME I WANT THE SATISFACTION OF MAKING HIM SQUIRM! WE HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!



DORA BERRY, DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU ARE SAYING? YOU WISH TO BECOME ONE OF US? I GIVE YOU FAIR WARNING! ONCE YOU HAVE STARTED TURNING BACK MEANS DEATH! IT MAY TAKE YEARS...

I UNDERSTAND... AND I AM WILLING...

I SPENT LONG DAYS AND NIGHTS READING THE ANCIENT BOOKS OF EVIL... PRACTICING THE BLACK ARTS! THE STUDY OF EVIL DRAINED AWAY MY LOOKS, MY YOUTH... BUT I TRAD

THEM WILLINGLY FOR THE POWER TO CONJURE, CURSE AND TORTURE THE MINDS OF THE GUILTY! SEVEN YEARS LATER...



SO YOU'RE THE HOUSEKEEPER THE AGENCY SENT OVER... YOU LOOK FAMILIAR! BY THE WAY WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WOMAN THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO SEND?

SHE WAS TAKEN SUDDENLY ILL, SIR... AND THEY SENT ME, INSTEAD. MY NAME IS ... MISS BIXBY!

OHOO... I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME... EVERYTHING WENT BLACK.



THE AGENCY SENT ME. I'M SORRY I WAS DELAYED BUT I BECAME STRANGELY ILL ON THE WAY OVER HERE.

SORRY BUT THE POSITION HAS BEEN FILLED! GOOD DAY...

WHO IS IT, MISS BIXBY?



IT WAS JUST AN OLD BEGGAR MR CAVENDISH...

OLD BEGGAR? KEEP 'EM AWAY FROM HERE, MISS BIXBY... I HATE THE SIGHT OF THESE OLD TRAMPS...

PEOPLE SQUEEZED DRY BY TIME! KEEP 'EM AWAY, D'YOU HEAR?

NOW THAT I WAS IN ARNOLD'S HOUSE, I PUT MY PLAN OF VENGEANCE INTO QUICK ACTION! IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, I PREPARED THE FIRST STEP...

A LITTLE OF THIS IN YOUR MEAT TOMORROW, MY SWEET AND EVER LOVING ARNOLD, AND YOU WILL DREAM! KA-NA... NOW YOU WILL DREAM!! YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER DORA MAYBERRY... BUT I PROMISE YOU, YOU'LL NOT FORGET MISS BIXBY...



THE NEXT NIGHT, WHEN ARNOLD SCREAMED, IT WAS MUSIC TO MY EARS! THE POTION WAS WORKING! HOW LONG HAD I WAITED TO MAKE THE MAN WHO BETRAYED ME WRITE WITH TERROR... BUT THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.



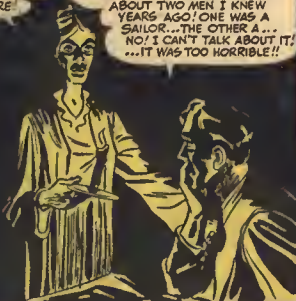
YOU TWO! THE PACT... BUT... BUT IT ISN'T TIME!! NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!! KEEP BACK!! HELP!!!

WE ALWAYS KEEP OUR BARGAINS!



MR. CAVENDISH, WAKE UP! YOU'RE HAVING A NIGHTMARE

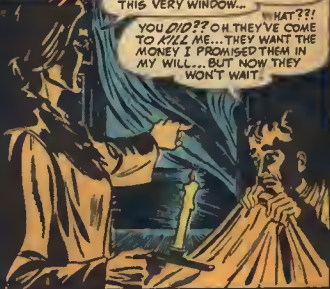
HUH? WH...!! OH THANK GOODNESS, IT'S YOU, MISS BIXBY! I... I WAS HAVING A TERRIBLE DREAM... ABOUT TWO MEN I KNEW YEARS AGO! ONE WAS A SAILOR... THE OTHER A... NO! I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT! ...IT WAS TOO HORRIBLE!!



DID YOU SAY A SAILOR, AND ANOTHER MAN? WHY, MR. CAVENDISH, I SAW TWO MEN, ONE WAS A SAILOR, LURKING AROUND THE GROUNDS WHILE YOU WERE OUT THIS AFTERNOON! THEY WERE POINTING UP TO THIS VERY WINDOW...

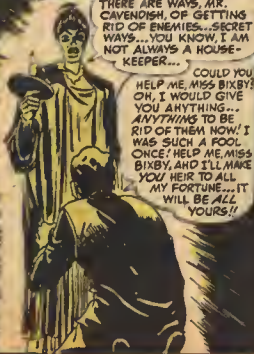
WHAT???

YOU DID?? OH THEY'VE COME TO KILL ME... THEY WANT THE MONEY I PROMISED THEM IN MY WILL... BUT NOW THEY WON'T WAIT



THERE ARE WAYS, MR. CAVENDISH, OF GETTING RID OF ENEMIES... SECRET WAYS... YOU KNOW, I AM NOT ALWAYS A HOUSE-KEEPER...

COULD YOU HELP ME, MISS BIXBY? OH, I WOULD GIVE YOU ANYTHING... ANYTHING TO BE RID OF THEM NOW! I WAS SUCH A FOOL ONCE! HELP ME, MISS BIXBY, AND I'LL MAKE YOU HEIR TO ALL MY FORTUNE... IT WILL BE ALL YOURS!!



EVERYTHING WAS WORKING AS I HAD PLANNED! SOON AFTER, I WENT TO MY TEACHER FOR THE HELP I STILL NEEDED. THERE, IN THE ROOM FULL OF SHADOWS AND THE SMELL OF STRANGE HERBS...



SATANA! I HAVE NEED OF THE MAGIC EYE! I SEEK TWO MEN—THOSE WHOM WE SAW WITH ARNOLD CAVENDISH MANY YEARS AGO WHEN HE MADE THE DEATH PACT...

COME, DORA— WE WILL FIND THEM...



HURRY IT UP SPIKE... I'VE GOT THE DARDEST FEELING THAT WE'RE BEING WATCHED!



I HAD A FEELIN SOMETHIN WOULD GO WRONG

WE GOTTA MAKE A BREAK FOR IT...

WELL I'LL BE DARNED! THAT WOMAN WHO PHONED IN THE TIP-OFF OF THIS ROBBERY WAS RIGHT!

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO ... HOLD IT, OR YOU'RE DEAD MEN!



I WARNED YOU NOT TO TRY THAT. YOU ASKED FOR IT!

RAT-ATAT
ATAT-ATAT-
TAT-TAT-
TAT-TAT.

UH-N-N-N!

AHHH-N-N-N!



WHAT ASTOUNDING LUCK!! YES, MISS BIXBY—THOSE ARE THE TWO MEN!! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU COULD HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS— BUT CERTAINLY YOUR WORKING FOR ME HAS BROUGHT ME GOOD FORTUNE!

TWO SLAIN IN ROBBERY!



THAT NIGHT, ARNOLD CAVENDISH WENT TO HIS BED FEELING SAFE AND SECURE! LITTLE DID HE REALIZE THE HORRORS I WAS BREWING—HORRORS THAT COULD CRACK THE SKIN THE WAY SUDDEN COLD CRACKS HOT METAL...

HEE-HEE... WAKE UP, MR. CAVENDISH— YOU HAVE VISITORS.. HEE-HEEEE!!



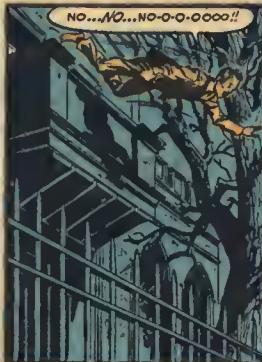
THE TIME HAS COME, ARNOLD CAVENDISH...

DOOM IS HERE ARNOLD CAVENDISH...

BUT...BUT YOU'RE BOTH... O-O-DEAD!



THE MAN TURNED GREEN WITH FEAR!! FOR A MOMENT HE REMAINED RIGID AND THEN SUDDENLY, HE BOLTED UP AND RAN BLINDLY TOWARD THE BEDROOM WINDOW, HIS EYEBALLS STRAINING IN THEIR SOCKETS, HIS FACE TWISTED WITH TERROR...



NO...NO...NO-O-O-O-O!!!

WHAT? DEAD SO SOON, ARNOLD? NOT EVEN A LITTLE MORE LIFE TO WRIGGLE OFF THE POINTS OF DEATH? WHAT A PITY...HEE-HEE-HEE!!



AND NOW YOU TWO CAN GO BACK TO YOUR RESTLESS GRAVES...AWAY!

WOOSH!



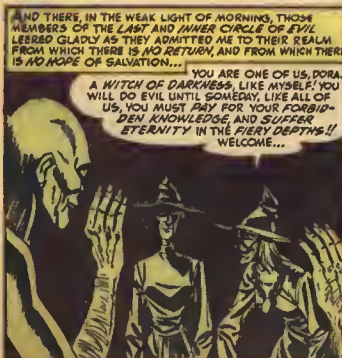
...AND ALL OF YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW I, HA-MA, MOURNED, HOW I CRIED, THE DAY ARNOLD WAS BURIED! AND NOW HIS FORTUNE, HIS MANSION, ARE ALL MINE!! THAT IS MY STORY, SATANA!

THE DAWN APPROACHES... WE MUST HURRY, WE ARE NOT THE CREATURES OF LIGHT BUT OF NIGHT!! COME, FRIENDS WE MUST VOTE IF DORA MAYBERRY IS WORTHY TO JOIN US!



AND THERE, IN THE WEAK LIGHT OF MORNING, THOSE MEMBERS OF THE LAST AND INNER CIRCLE OF EVIL LEERED GLADLY AS THEY ADMITTED ME TO THEIR REALM FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURN, AND FROM WHICH THERE IS NO HOPE OF SALVATION...

YOU ARE ONE OF US, DORA... A WITCH OF DARKNESS, LIKE MYSELF! YOU WILL DO EVIL UNTIL SOMEDAY, LIKE ALL OF US, YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE, AND SUFFER ETERNITY IN THE FIERY DEPTHS!! WELCOME...



AND SO I WENT BACK TO THE OLD CAVEHENDISH MANSION, THERE TO BECOME A PRACTITIONER OF THE BLACK ARTS, THERE TO GROW OLD AND WITHERED LIKE THE MANSION ITSELF, THERE TO LIVE OUT MY WRETCHED LIFE UNTIL THE BLACK DAY OF MY DEATH WOULD CLAIM ME...

MADAME MAYBERRY, I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE STRANGE POWERS—THAT YOU CAN CURSE, CHARM, CONJURE... I NEED YOUR HELP! THERE IS A MAN I HATE WHO HAS BETRAYED ME...

ENTER, MY CHILD... ENTER!! YOU HAVE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!!



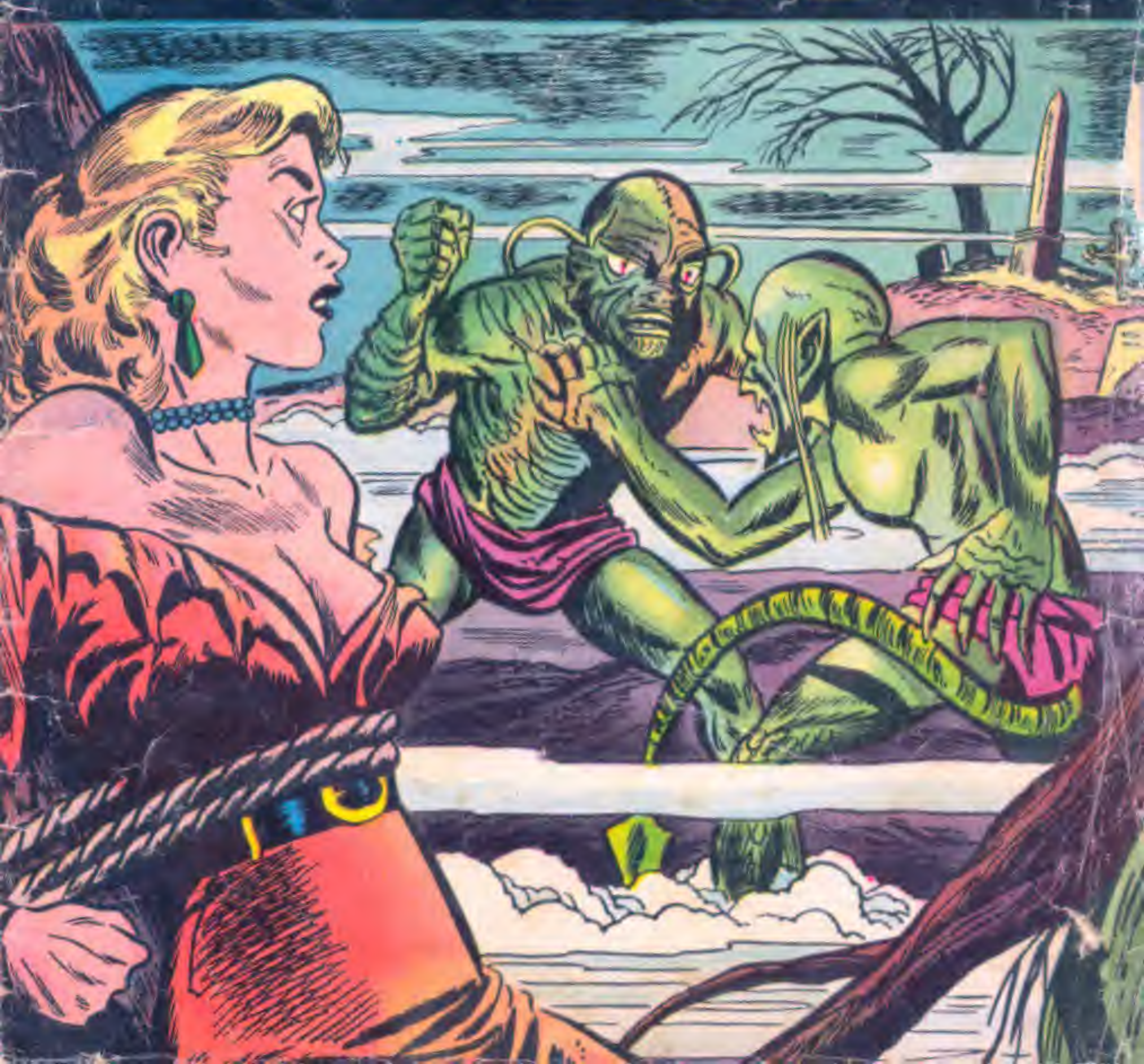
THE END

WEIRD

CHILLS

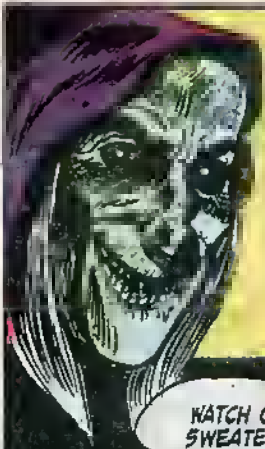
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FRED HARRIS HAD TWO FAULTS IN THE EYES OF HIS WIFE, RITA -- ONE WAS THE LACK OF MONEY -- BUT MOST PEOPLE HAVE THAT FAULT, SO SHE COULDN'T BE TOO ANGRY AT THAT! IT WAS THE OTHER DEFECT THAT BOTHERED HER -- HER HUSBAND WAS JUST TOO --

CLUMSY



WATCH OUT - OH MY NEW SWEATER - IT'S RUINED! AND IT COST SO MUCH MONEY!

OH, I'M SORRY, RITA-BABY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED - GUESS MY MIND WAS ON THAT NEW EXPERIMENT AT THE LAB!



THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WONDER WHY I LOVE YOU -- YOU'RE SO -- SO CLUMSY!

BUT RITA -- BUT DARLING! I JUST CAN'T HELP IT! GUESS I WAS BORN WITH TWO LEFT HANDS!

BUT RITA WAS A STRANGE GIRL -- AND COULD PUT UP WITH FRED'S CLUMSINESS -- THE QUESTION OF MONEY -- OR THE LACK OF IT WAS BEGINNING TO GET HER DOWN!

MAYBE YOU CAN -- BUT NOT ME! I'VE BEEN POOR ALL MY LIFE! IT'S TIME THAT CHANGED! WE'VE GOT TO HAVE MORE MONEY, FRED -- AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT I DON'T CARE HOW YOU GET IT!



IT'S NO USE, I'VE HID THIS LONG ENOUGH, FRED -- WHAT GOOD IS A MARRIAGE WITH OUT MONEY! THE SAYING TWO CAN LIVE AS CHEAPLY AS ONE, IS NONSENSE!

I KNOW A SCIENTIST DOESN'T MAKE MUCH -- BUT WE'VE MANAGED TO GET ALONG

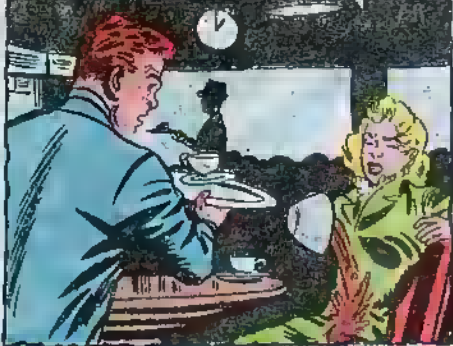


RITA COULDN'T HELP BEING MONEY HUNGRY-- SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A POOR GIRL... THAT'S WHY SHE HAD ALWAYS WANTED THINGS-- THE THINGS SHE KNEW EXISTED BUT NEVER HAD! BUT THEN SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH FRED! SHE NEVER COULD FIGURE OUT WHY-- PEOPLE PLAN AND FIGURE-- THEN ALONG COMES SOMEBODY AND ALL THOSE PLANS GO RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW!

TAKE THE TIME THEY MET-- YOU COULD HARDLY CALL IT A ROMANTIC SETTING! IT WAS JUST FRED--ACTING NORMALLY-- TRIPPING OVER HIS OWN FEET---

OH, I'M TEREIBLY SORRY-- YOU MUST LET ME PAY FOR THE DAMAGE!

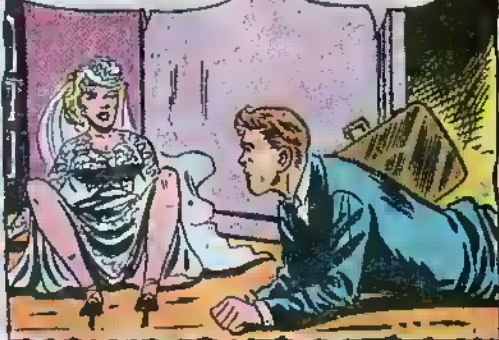
THAT'S ALL RIGHT-- ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN!



FROM SUCH A BEGINNING, ROMANCE BLOSSOMED! AND EVENTUALLY THEY MARRIED! BUT THAT DIDN'T CHANGE FRED-- IF ANYTHING, THE NERVOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION MADE HIM EVEN CLUMSIER!

WELL, THAT'S ONE WAY OF GETTING YOUR BRIDE OVER THE THRESHOLD!

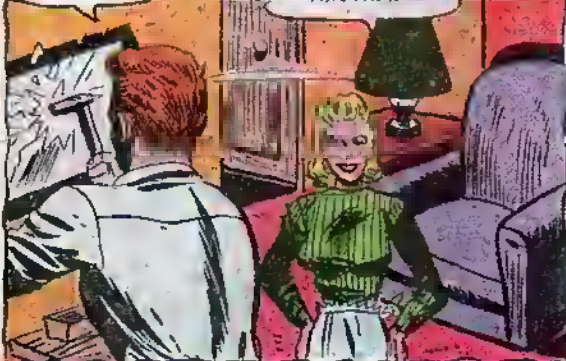
OH, RITA-- RITA-- FORGIVE ME! I'M SUCH A CLUMSY LOU!



THEY SET UP HOUSEKEEPING-- AND AT FIRST THE CLUMSINESS OF FRED WAS TAKEN AS A BIG JOKE!

NOW LOOK WHAT I'VE DONE! I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE LET YOU HANG THIS PICTURE!

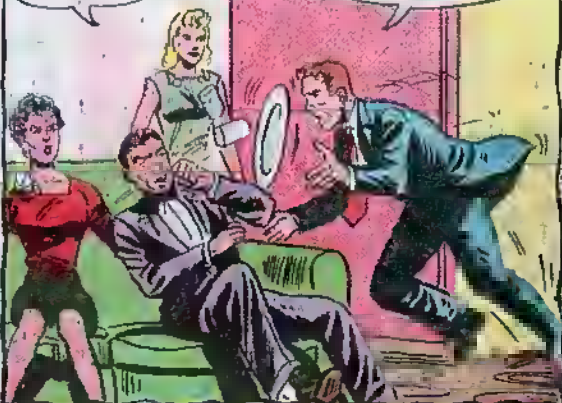
HA! HA! YOU LOOK SO RIDICULOUS, DARLING-- AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE PAINTING-- WE CAN ALWAYS GET SOME POOR ARTIST TO PAINT US ANOTHER!



BUT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN FRED'S CLUMSINESS WASN'T SO FUNNY-- TIMES WHEN IT EMBARRASSED HIS WIFE WHO WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS PEOPLE!

WATCH IT-- YOU CLUMSY FOOL!

OH, GOSH, I'M REALLY SORRY-- REALLY SORRY!



BUT SHE LOVED FRED-- THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THAT-- ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS TAKE HER IN HIS ARMS AND SHE FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIS BEING CLUMSY-- ALL ABOUT THE EMBARRASSMENT HE CAUSED HER!

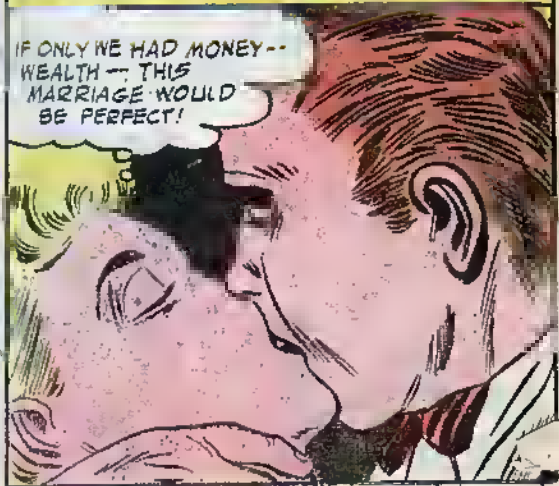
I LOVE YOU SO, RITA-- YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH!

OH FRED-- FRED-- FRED!



AND THEN HE WOULD KISS HER-- AND AT FIRST HER THOUGHTS WERE ONLY OF HER LOVE FOR THIS MAN-- BUT LATELY OTHER THOUGHTS WERE POPPING INTO HER HEAD-- OTHER IDEAS--

IF ONLY WE HAD MONEY-- WEALTH-- THIS MARRIAGE WOULD BE PERFECT!



IN HIS LABORATORY, FRED WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON-- THERE THE CLUMSINESS AND THE ANKWARDNESS WERE GONE-- THERE HE WAS THE PICTURE OF EFFICIENCY-- A DEFT TOUCH BEHIND A SKILLED MIND --



LIKE MOST OF US, RITA KNEW LITTLE OF A SCIENTIST'S ACTIVITY-- AND AT TIMES CARED LESS-- BUT ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY SOME UNKNOWN BUG OF CURIOSITY GOT THE BEST OF HER --

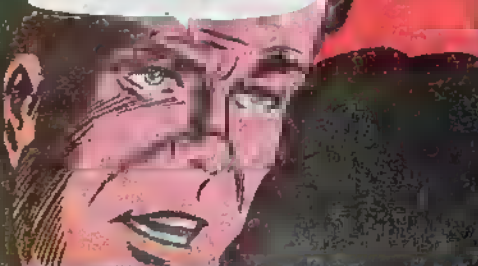
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT ICE, FRED? WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENT IS THIS?

I'M TRYING SOMETHING WITH SUSPENDED ANIMATION -- TRYING TO KEEP THE CAT BARELY ALIVE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME!



NOW FRED WAS IN HIS GLORY-- NOW HE COULD TALK OF SOMETHING THAT WAS NEAR AND DEAR TO HIM-- AND TO A WIFE THAT EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES MONEY!

THE RUSSIANS HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH SUSPENDED ANIMATION! AND I THINK I'VE FINISHED THEIR WORK! BY PACKING THE ANIMAL IN ICE I BELIEVE I CAN KEEP THIS ANIMAL LIKE THIS FOR YEARS!



BUT RITA WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SUSPENDED ANIMATION -- MUCH MORE!

WOULD IT WORK ON A HUMAN-- AND FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME-- SAY ABOUT SEVEN YEARS?

I'VE NEVER EXPERIMENTED WITH HUMANS, BUT I HAVE ENOUGH FAITH IN MY WORK TO SAY THAT IT WOULD WORK! AS FOR HOW LONG I SUPPOSE YOU

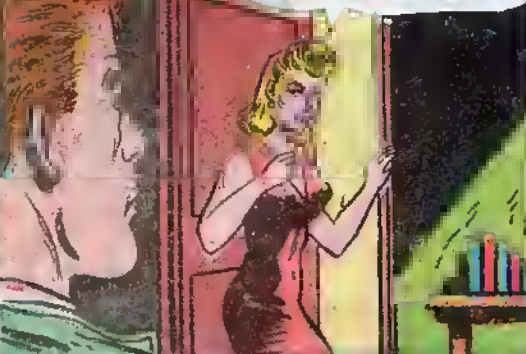
PENDED THAT LONG -- AS LONG AS SOMEONE WAS AROUND TO MAKE SURE THAT NOTHING WENT WRONG!



RITA HAD HEARD ENOUGH-- ENOUGH TO GET HER BRAIN WORKING -- A PLAN HAD BEEN BORN--

DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR ME, DARLING -- IT ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS I MADE IT SOUND, YOU KNOW!

NO! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH-- RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT SOME THINKING TO DO -- AND I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU -- NOT NOW!



YES, RITA HAD FOUND THE ANSWER-- THE ANSWER TO WHERE SHE WAS GOING TO GET THAT MONEY SHE HAS ALWAYS DREAMING ABOUT!

IT'S GOT TO WORK-- IT JUST HAS TO!



THE HOURS PASSED AND RITA THOUGHT THE WHOLE PLAN THROUGH-- AND THAT NIGHT SHE REVEALED IT TO FRED-- TO A SHOCKED FRED!

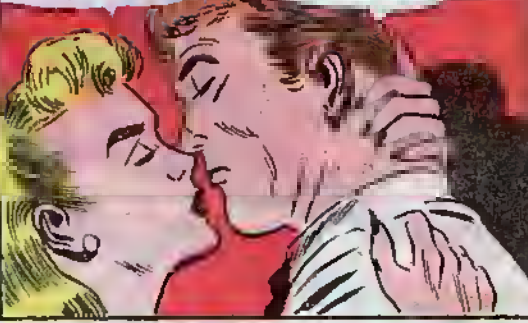
FIRST WE'LL TAKE OUT A LARGE INSURANCE POLICY ON MY LIFE! THEN YOU'LL PACK ME IN ICE - SUSPENDED ANIMATION-- YOU CALL IT-- FOR SEVEN YEARS! I'LL BE DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD, THEN YOU AND I CAN COLLECT THE MONEY! OF COURSE YOU'LL BRING ME BACK TO LIFE AND WE'LL GO AWAY AND START ALL OVER -- BUT THIS TIME WE'LL BE RICH!

NO! YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!



BUT RITA KNEW HOW TO GET AROUND HER HUSBAND - FRED COULD NEVER RESIST HER SLIGHTEST WHIM ANYHOW-- HE CERTAINLY COULDN'T NOW--

IF YOU REALLY LOVED ME-- NO-- I COULDN'T YOU'D WANT THAT MONEY-- BEAR TO LOSE YOU-- TOO-- 'CAUSE WITHOUT I JUST COULDN'T-- MONEY THIS MARRIAGE ALL RIGHT, RITA -- IF WILL BREAK UP! AND THAT'S WHAT YOU YOU DON'T WANT WANT I'LL GO THROUGH THAT, DO YOU? WITH IT!



RITA WAS IN A HURRY TO START HER PLAN-- AND SO THE VERY NEXT DAY --

THERE YOU ARE, A POLICY FOR \$100,000 ON YOUR WIFE! SEEMS STRANGE THOUGH, IN MOST FAMILIES IT'S THE HUSBAND WHO'S INSURED, NOT THE WIFE!

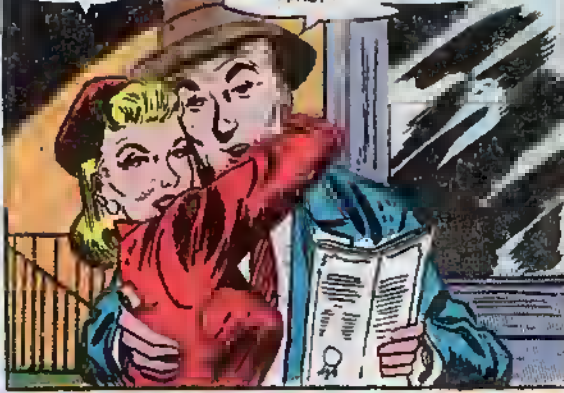
NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT, MISTER-- WE HAVE OUR REASONS-- WE HAVE OUR REASONS! --



NOW FRED BEGAN TO SEE THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE SCHEME-- AFTER ALL IT WAS HIS MONEY TOO-- OR IT WOULD BE HIS MONEY IN SEVEN YEARS--

WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE DONE IT!

NO, NOT YET-- THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP-- NOW COMES THE MORE DIFFICULT PART!

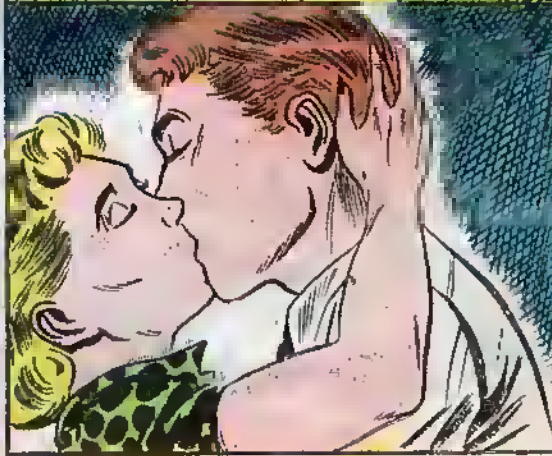


YES, THERE WAS A LOT MORE TO BE DONE-- AND IMPATIENT FRED WAS IN A HURRY TO START--

NOT YET, FRED-- IF I WERE TO BE MISSING SO SOON AFTER TAKING OUT THE POLICY, THE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS -- NO-- WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BIDE OUR TIME AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE!



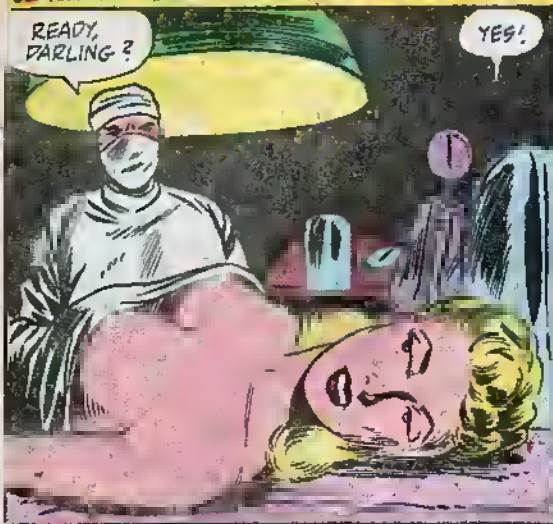
RITA WAS SO CLEVER-- IT WASN'T EVERY MAN WHO HAD A WIFE LIKE THAT-- NO WONDER FRED LOVED HER SO-- AND SO THEY KISSED TO THEIR FUTURE -- A FUTURE THAT WOULD BE FILLED WITH WONDERS THAT WEALTH COULD ACQUIRE!



A YEAR PASSED AND FINALLY IT WAS TIME --

READY, DARLING?

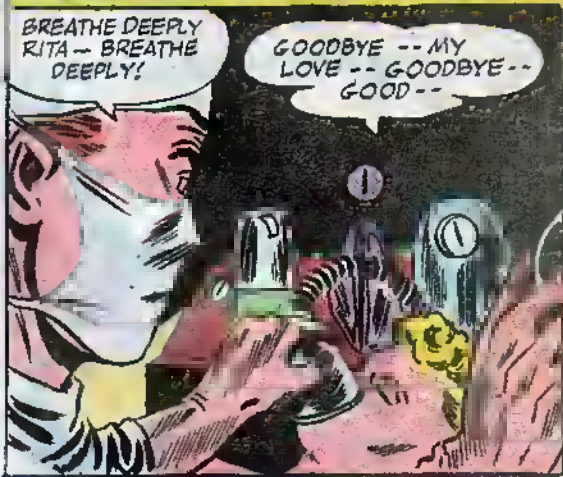
YES!



GENTLY HE PLACED THE ETHER CONE OVER HER FACE -- HER LOVELY FACE -- A FACE THAT WAS TO REMAIN HIDDEN FOR SEVEN LONG YEARS --

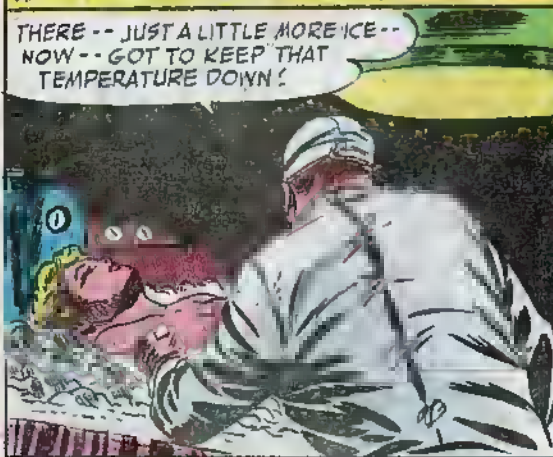
BREATHE DEEPLY RITA -- BREATHE DEEPLY!

GOODBYE -- MY LOVE -- GOODBYE -- GOOD --



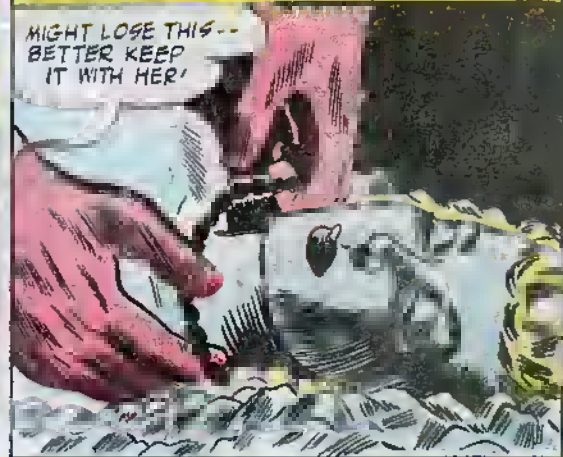
NOW THE SCIENTIST WAS AT WORK -- NO LONGER THE HUSBAND, FRED WAS THE PICTURE OF EFFICIENCY -- HIS FINGERS WERE SURE AND DEFT -- AND HE WORKED WITHOUT HESITATION --

THERE -- JUST A LITTLE MORE ICE -- NOW -- GOT TO KEEP THAT TEMPERATURE DOWN!



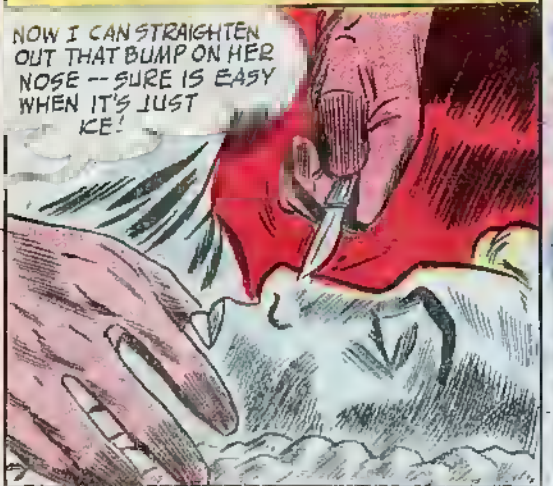
HE REMOVED THE BLOOD FROM HER BODY AND FROZE IT INTO A SMALL BRACELET -- A BRACELET WHICH HE STRUNG AROUND HER NECK -- HER WHITE ALABASTER NECK -- HER PERFECT NECK --

MIGHT LOSE THIS -- BETTER KEEP IT WITH HER!

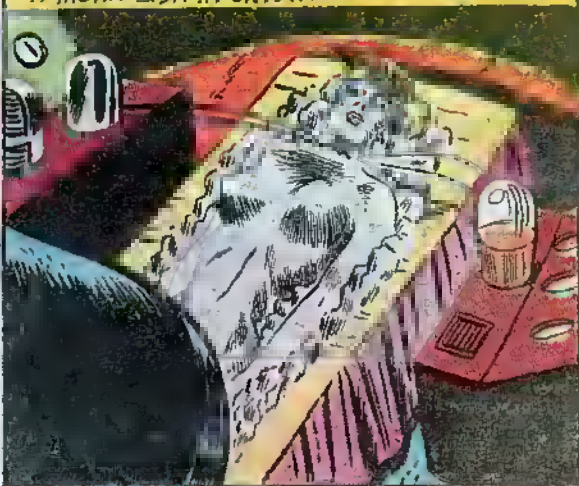


THE PERFECTIONIST IN THE MAN CAME INTO PLAY -- NOW HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING HE'D ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT --

NOW I CAN STRAIGHTEN OUT THAT BUMP ON HER NOSE -- SURE IS EASY WHEN IT'S JUST ICE!



FINALLY, THE TASK WAS FINISHED -- AND RITA LAY THERE -- A SHIMMERING, SHINY MOLD OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN -- OF AN ICE WOMAN -- OF A MONA LISA IN CRYSTAL --



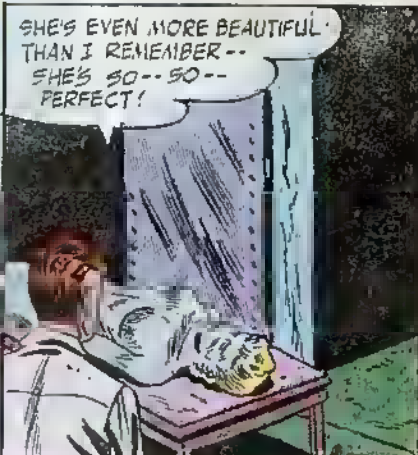
FRED REPORTED RITA'S DISAPPEARANCE AND OF COURSE THERE WAS AN INQUEST! BUT THERE WAS NO BODY TO BE FOUND, UNDER THE LAW, HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT SEVEN YEARS TO COLLECT THE MONEY! IT WAS JUST AS RITA HAD SAID-- JUST AS SHE FIGURED! IT WAS NO WONDER THAT HE LOVED RITA! WHO COULD HELP BUT LOVE A WOMAN LIKE RITA?

THE TIME PASSED AND MONTHS TURNED INTO YEARS AND SOMEHOW FRED MANAGED TO ACT THE PART OF THE MOURNING HUSBAND--FOR DEEP INSIDE HE WAS A MOURNING HUSBAND--WHAT FUN WAS THERE IN BEING MARRIED, WHEN HE HAD NO WIFE!



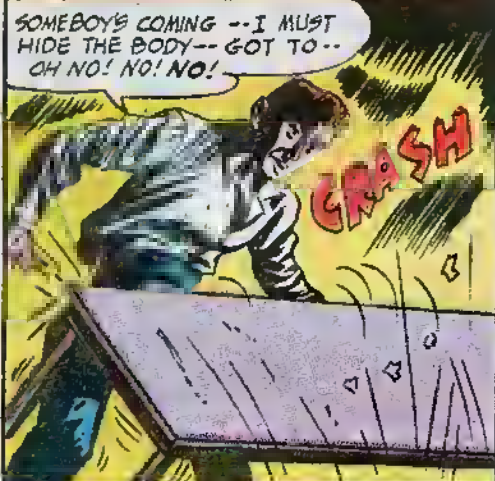
IT'S SO LONELY! IF I HAD KNOWN IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS I WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH IT!

FINALLY FRED COULDN'T TAKE THE LONELINESS ANY LONGER-- HE HAD TO SEE RITA--TO LOOK AT HER BEAUTIFUL FACE -- AND SO AT THE LABORATORY--



SHE'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I REMEMBER-- SHE'S SO--SO-- PERFECT!

BUT THE BEST PLANS ARE OFTEN UPSET-- AND AT THAT MOMENT--



SOMEBOYS COMING --I MUST HIDE THE BODY-- GOT TO-- OH NO! NO! NO!

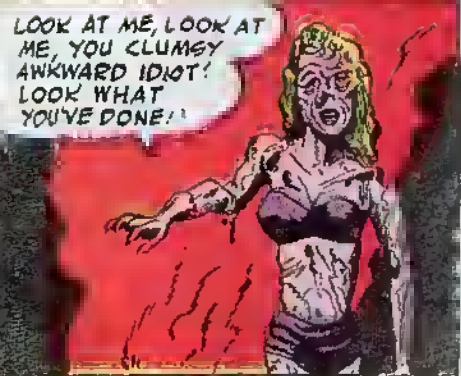
CRASH

THE CLUMSY IDIOT--THE AWKWARD FOOL--NOW HIS CLUMSINESS HAD COST HIM--LOOK AT HER, FRED-- BROKEN INTO A THOUSAND PIECES--TINY FRAGMENTS OF WHAT ONCE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN-- OF WHAT ONCE WAS YOUR WIFE! DON'T STAND THERE LIKE AN IDIOT -- DO SOMETHING -- DO SOMETHING BEFORE SHE MELTS!



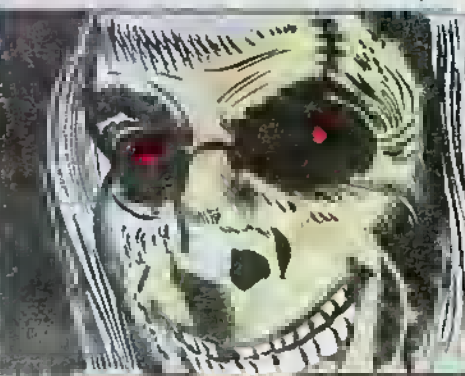
HE HAD TO SAVE HER -- BRING HER BACK TO LIFE -- PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER AGAIN! NO LONGER DID HE THINK OF THE MONEY-- NOW HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE HIS WIFE -- BUT SHE WAS LIKE A JIG-SAW PUZZLE -- HIS JOB WAS TO PUT HER TOGETHER -- BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE!

YES, HE PUT HER BACK TOGETHER AGAIN -- AS BEST HE COULD -- BUT SOMEHOW SHE DIDN'T LOOK THE SAME -- WELL, FRED WAS A LITTLE CLUMSY AT THAT SORT OF THING, AND THEN AGAIN, PARTS OF HER BODY MELTED, SO YOU COULDN'T EXPECT TOO NEAT A JOB -- COULD YOU?



LOOK AT ME, LOOK AT ME, YOU CLUMSY AWKWARD IDIOT! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

FRED AND RITA ARE STILL MARRIED -- BUT SOMEHOW THEY ACT A LITTLE COLD TOWARD EACH OTHER! AND WHEN THEY EMBRACE, FRED COMPLAINS THAT SHE FEELS LIKE ICE! AND OF COURSE RITA DOESN'T DARE GO OUT INTO THE SUN... WELL, WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT WHEN SOMEBODY'S ASSETS ARE FROZEN! HEH-HEH-HEH!



THE 'INTERVIEW'...

BELIEVE ME, EILEEN, IT IS OF THE **UTMOST** IMPORTANCE THAT YOU MEET MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER...



...I'M NOT GENERALLY KNOWN... BUT GREAT GRANDMA **STILL** CONTROLS THE FAMILY FORTUNE - TIGHTER THAN EVER!



ALL DECISIONS IN OUR FAMILY CIRCLE ARE MADE BY **GREAT GRANDMA**... NOT JUST THE **BIG** ONES - ALL DECISIONS!



BUT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, EILEEN... I'M **SURE** GREAT GRANDMA WILL APPROVE OF YOU...



WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T?

THEN YOU'RE **DEAD** - NO... I MEAN - WELL, **HERE** WE ARE, EILEEN!



NOW, DON'T LET HER FRIGHTEN YOU, BABY! CHIN UP! IN WE GO!

